

**Iran, S. Africa form joint panel**

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — The United States should stop interfering in Iran's affairs, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Tuesday after clinching a cooperation deal with South Africa. The two countries established a joint diplomatic commission, brushing aside United States concern over the expanding trade relationship between Pretoria and Tehran. Mr. Velayati claimed that the U.S. attempt to isolate Iran internationally had failed. "We don't care (about the oil embargo) because this is not the first time that the U.S. has come out against our cooperation with other countries. But fortunately they have failed in their foreign policy," Mr. Velayati said. He said the joint commission agreement would give Iran access to African markets in return for its support for South Africa's social upliftment programmes. "We have discussed cooperation and participation by Iran in South Africa's Reconstruction and Development Programme," he said, adding that Iran could establish student exchange programmes and fund South African health care institutions. South Africa could also use Iran as a gateway to new markets in the new republics of the former Soviet Union and in Central Asia, he said.

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**Meeting reviews decentralisation**

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh on Tuesday chaired a meeting with the secretaries general and directors general of ministries and government departments, attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdul Karim Al Kabariti and Minister of Administrative Development Muhieddin Touq. Mr. Rawabdeh stressed the need for facilitating procedures and for the real delegation of authorities to officials in the field, rather than restricting them to the central government ministries or departments. Mr. Rawabdeh said much has been said about decentralisation but centralisation is still in place particularly when it comes to government procurement and supplies. The deputy prime minister said it is high time to focus on providing the best services to citizens fairly, and to give special attention to the least privileged areas. Also addressing the meeting, which is the second in a series of such meetings planned for this year, was Mr. Kabariti who briefed the secretaries general and directors general on Jordan's stand towards various regional issues, saying that this position emanates from Jordan's national interests and its pan-Arab stand.

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**Ex-senator Fawaz passes away**

AMMAN (Petra) — Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi on Tuesday announced the passing of former Senate member Sheikh Hamadeh Al Fawaz. Mr. Lawzi praised the deceased for his long dedicated service to the Kingdom.

**Assad meets Sedki**

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad met Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki on Tuesday to review the results of a joint committee for cooperation between the two countries, a presidential spokesman said. Jibril Kourieh said Dr. Sedki and Syrian Premier Mahmoud Al Zoubi presented the decisions of the committee which the two presidents chair to Mr. Assad, who expressed his "satisfaction" and urged "strengthened cooperation." The high committee for Egyptian-Syrian cooperation held its eighth session on Monday during which the oil ministers from both nations decided to create a joint oil company.

**PLO-trained police officers enter Gaza**

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A group of 170 Palestinian police officers arrived here late Monday from Algeria to take part in a series of joint patrols with the Israeli army, a Palestinian source said. The uniformed officers entered the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing point on the border with Egypt. They are part of a total of 2,000 Palestinian police officers based outside the autonomous territories who are authorized to enter the latter under the 1994 Cairo agreement between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel.

**Yediot refuses to surrender pictures**

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli newspaper refused Tuesday to give police its film from a deadly clash between Jewish settlers and Palestinians in the West Bank. Kheir Al Qaisi, 22, was shot and killed Sunday in a confrontation with settlers. Police arrested a settler Monday after newspaper photographs showed him with an M-16 automatic rifle taking aim as Palestinian demonstrators ransacked a settler camp on a West Bank hilltop. Mibi Mozer, legal adviser to the Yediot Achronot hard newspaper, said the paper would not turn over its negatives to police. "The lives of photographers are hard enough these days," he told Israel Radio. "You cannot turn photographers into police sources."

**Israel extends Gaza closure**

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel extended a closure of the Gaza Strip for an additional 24 hours until Thursday afternoon, the army said Tuesday.

The closure, imposed last Wednesday after intelligence reports warned of plans to stage attacks inside Israel from Gaza, has already been extended three times. Security sources said there were specific indications of an impending attempted attack by Palestinians they have identified in the Gaza Strip.

**Cannibal tribe discovered**

AKARTA (AFP) — An primitive tribe thought to be cannibals have discovered living relatives of Indonesia's lost island of Irian Jaya to press freedom on Monday. The American agency quoted a local chief in three houses sighted in an area where the Kurima sub-tribe of Agusta sub-tribe of Merak are still living naked trees. Arnold Judding, the head of the tribe, was quoted as saying, "I am not a cannibal, he added that he believed he had no contact with the world and was still practicing cannibalism. The tribe which neighbours Papua New Guinea is one of the most primitive tribes in the world.

**China frees protesters**

BONN (AFP) — All the anti-nuclear protesters and journalists arrested at a demonstration in Beijing Tuesday have been freed and are in a hotel in the Chinese capital, the German foreign ministry said. The last eight who were being held — six Greenpeace activists and two cameramen — are expected to be flown to Hong Kong Wednesday, the ministry said. They were released following representations by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, the ministry said. Three of the eight are of German nationality (see page 5).

## Ekeus to visit Jordan after Iraq mission

in Amman that he would work to overthrow his father-in-law's government.

Gen. Hassan also was believed ready to reveal classified information about Iraqi weapons programmes that violate U.N. resolutions imposed on Iraq after its defeat in the Gulf war.

Mr. Aziz's "urgent" invitation to Mr. Ekeus Sunday seemed to be aimed at getting the jump on eventual revelations by Gen. Hassan, who already has met with U.S. officials in Jordan.

"It is evident that there is some important and secret information that Baghdad is prepared to disclose," before Gen. Hassan makes his own disclosures as allies expect, Mr. Ekeus said Sunday.

The Swedish diplomat said the information concerns not only Baghdad's biological weapons programme — the subject of a recent U.N. mission to Iraq — but also includes revelations "concerning missile and nuclear programmes."

Iraq admitted Sunday it had withheld weapons secrets from the United Nations but blamed the decision on Gen. Hassan.

Mr. Sills also said Iraq's U.N. Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun had notified Mr. Ekeus that Baghdad's earlier threat to stop cooperating with U.N. officials unless the oil embargo was lifted by the end of August was no longer valid "and was not the policy of his government."

Iraqi media meanwhile, mocked Western views that the defection of Gen. Hassan is a serious blow to President Saddam and urged Mr. Ekeus to visit Baghdad before taking to the defector.

The ruling Baath Party

(Continued on page 7)



**TRIBUTE TO DEAD:** Japanese imperial navy veterans march through a gate of Yasukuni shrine to pay tribute to Japanese war dead on Tuesday. Thousands of people visited the controversial shrine to dedicate to the memory of 2.5 million Japanese killed in war (see story inside) (AFP photo)

## U.S. forces start arriving for joint military exercises

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter  
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — American servicemen started arriving in Jordan on Tuesday for joint military exercises — planned before the recent defection of a senior Iraqi official to the Kingdom — and the United States reiterated its commitment to defend Jordan against what Washington sees as a possible Iraqi threat.

More than 3,000 U.S. soldiers are expected to take part in the joint exercises, codenamed "Infinite Moonlight," which Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said Monday, were planned years ago as part of Jordanian-American military cooperation.

Equipment for the exercises were being unloaded at Aqaba port on Tuesday, and a U.S. defense official said in Dubai that Pentagon had decided to add warplanes to the manoeuvres. The planes will be based on the USS Theodore Roosevelt, which was expected to arrive in the Eastern Mediterranean on Wednesday.

He noted that the Roosevelt would be off the coast of Israel, putting U.S. planes within striking distance of Iraq, and had a second carrier in the Gulf.

The United States has a sizable number of Tomahawks (cruise missiles) within range of Iraq," Mr. Perry said in an interview published Tuesday in the Washington Times.

"We have a powerful military force which we could bring to bear on that situation immediately if we needed to," he said.

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The U.S. soldiers are part of the Fifth Fleet, which covers the Gulf and Red Sea, while the warplanes from the Roosevelt are from the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

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## Saddam half-brother reportedly shot dead

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's half-brother Watban Ibrahim Hassan has died in Baghdad five days after he was shot by President Saddam's eldest son Uday, a Kurdish opposition group said Tuesday.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) charged in a statement here: "Uday fired last Tuesday at Watban, his wife Soraya and their children during a raid on their relative Hussein Kamel.

The PUK statement did not say when the two died.

It added that "the regime's special forces encircled Baghdad a dawn Tuesday." There was no immediate independent confirmation of its report.

The Iraqi National Congress hailed the defection as a "new opportunity" for the Iraqi people.

The INC said in a statement: "welcomes the stance taken by the Jordanian government against Saddam and calls upon other Arab countries to adopt a similar position in order to ward off pressure from Iraq."

Gen. Hassan's statements at a news conference in Amman were "a scathing indictment of the regime and illustrate the clear linkage between the regime's crimes and the enormous sanctions faced by the Iraqi people," said the statement.

"The erosion of the very foundation of Saddam's regime will grant great opportunities to the Iraqi people, members of the armed forces and officials within the ruling party to finally rid Iraq of this band of criminals," it said.

Gen. Hassan called in Amman on Saturday for the Iraqi army, and civil servants to overthrow the Baghdad regime.

The PUK also said that two more of President Saddam's relatives had fled Iraq for an unknown country.

But INC chief Ahmad Chalabi afterward criticised one as Majed Adnan Khairallah, son of President Saddam's brother-in-Law Adnan Khairallah, Adnan Khairallah, a former Iraqi defence minister, died in 1989 in a helicopter accident.

The other was named as



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat speaks to journalists in Tunis on Tuesday after a meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Executive Committee (AFP photo)

## Massive ethnic cleansing underway in Banja Luka

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — A massive ethnic cleansing of Banja Luka picked up steam Tuesday with thousands of frightened Croats and Muslims abandoning their homes in the Serb-held territory and taking with them only what they can carry.

"Authorities are putting out the word to all village heads to tell all minorities in their areas to assemble and to prepare to leave," said Mark Cutts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The exiles left behind homes and most of their possessions, while Bosnian Serb authorities required the people they were forcing into exile to pay 100 German marks as they departed, Mr. Cutts said.

"Many families have already been forcibly evicted from their houses and there are still large queues outside the UNHCR office where people are begging to leave," said Cutts.

Around 3,000 Muslims were waiting to be bussed out of Banja Luka to Croatia Tuesday, relief officials said there. They estimated that 800 minority Croats and Muslims left Monday while the UNHCR put the figures at 660, 100 of whom were Muslims.

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## Kabariti visits Riyadh; envoy to be named

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti headed for Riyadh on Tuesday carrying a message from His Majesty King Hussein to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on a visit widely seen as advancing the normalisation of Jordanian-Saudi relations after five years of strain.

On a different front, informed sources said in Amman that Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations were also expected to receive a boost soon with a meeting between Mr. Kabariti and the foreign minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Jordanian-Kuwaiti contacts are continuing and the two foreign ministers could meet soon," said one source. Most probably the encounter could be at a meeting of the Arab League Council of Foreign Ministers in Cairo.

Sheikh Sabah spoke with Mr. Kabariti this week, the source confirmed. "They discussed the latest developments" following the defection to Jordan of a top Iraqi official.

Nearly 4,000 Jordanian soldiers are expected to take part in the mock warfare exercises with the United States, which involve naval and land combat.

In Dubai, a Pentagon official said warplanes from the Roosevelt will join the war games.

The 10-day exercises had been planned for months but the decision to include the aircraft from the Roosevelt was taken in the last two days to give an "extra dimension" to the manoeuvres, said the official, quoted by AFP.

The U.S. soldiers are part of the Fifth Fleet, which covers the Gulf and Red Sea, while the warplanes from the Roosevelt are from the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

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## PLO, Israel push partial agreement

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian and Israeli negotiators struggled to flesh out a deal on expanding Palestinian self-rule at a Red Sea resort on Tuesday as leaders tried to persuade followers to accept agreements already reached.

"We are still negotiating the disputed issues. There is still a gap on these issues," chief Palestinian negotiator Ahmad Kouriea, commenting on the talks held at Eilat, told Reuters.

In Tunis, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee mean-while approved the partial accord reached with Israel on extending self-rule across the West Bank and set out guidelines for fresh negotiations.

The Executive Committee meeting, which eight of the 18 members boycotted, was opened on Monday by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to consider the accord he negotiated with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Taba, Egypt on Friday.

His comments were echoed by Jawid Al Ghossein, an executive member, who said: "Hebron is a timebomb which must be defused before coming to a full agreement in the interim period."

The partial accords agreed at Taba came under fire from PLO factions opposed to the peace process, who criticised Mr. Arafat for making "new concessions" to the Israelis and decided to boycott the committee session.

The most important show was Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department and considered the organisation's number

developments" — an obvious reference to the recent defection of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to Jordan.

The foreign minister, who will meet with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Saud Al Faisal, and possibly be received by King Fahd, said Jordan and Saudi Arabia were seeking to restore relations to their pre-Gulf crisis level.

Mr. Kabariti and Prince Saud are also expected to discuss possibilities of arranging a summit meeting between King Hussein and King Fahd.

Mr. Kabariti said that during his July 15 visit to Saudi Arabia "both sides agreed to enhance political dialogue on scopes of building a forward-looking vision that serves the common strategy and security" of the two countries.

The minister, who took office in January, underlined the importance of Saudi Arabia, in a political context, as a "strategic axis and cornerstone in the region."

Expected to be high on the agenda for the Riyadh visit is the dramatic defection of Lieutenant General Hussein Kamel Hassan, Iraq's minister of industries and son-in-law of President Saddam, along with his wife, brother Saddam Kamel Hassan and his wife, also a daughter of the Iraqi president.

A high-ranking Saudi official, Prince Turki Al Faisal, visited Amman this week and was received by King Hussein.

Prince Turki, a brother of Prince Saud, heads Saudi intelligence. There was no official confirmation of his visit to Jordan.

Political observers said Saudi Arabia was anxious to relations and the "latest

(Continued on page 7)

the West Bank over about two years and self-rule elections.

The two sides, however, failed to settle other issues, including water-sharing and security control, over the flashpoint town of Hebron.

Mr. Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said there was no opposition within the meeting to the partial agreement signed at Taba. "There is nothing to object in the common declaration," he said.

"It's a statement of points of agreement and disagreement."

Mr. Kanafani added: "The new Executive Committee guidelines should enable Palestinian negotiators to avoid further delay because it is high time we reached an agreement."

However, he said a full accord would not be possible without an Israeli military withdrawal from the town of Hebron, where 400 Jewish settlers live surrounded by 110,000 Palestinians.

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## Contacts between FIS and Algiers authorities continue

ALGIERS (AFP) — Contacts between Algerian authorities and the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) are continuing and have not been interrupted since 1993. Sheikh Hachemi Sahnouni, a founder member of the party, said Tuesday.

"The contacts are continuing. Sometimes they are announced publicly; sometimes they take place in secret," Mr. Sahnouni said in an interview published Tuesday in the Arab daily Al-Aman Eissassi (the political world).

He said talks could be unblocked by the release of FIS leaders who have been under preventive detention for more than two years.

A presidential spokesman said in July that contacts which lasted two months between authorities and leaders of the FIS, ended in failure because of the stubbornness of the Islamic leaders.

Mr. Sahnouni blamed the authorities, saying they did not want to see the FIS benefit from "legitimate or popular credibility."

However, he said the violence shaking Algeria will not stop "because many different parties are involved in it."

"It would be very difficult for anyone to say I control

the spiral of violence and I can stop it when I like," he added.

He called on the leaders of the FIS to condemn "actions which do not conform to the Koranic law."

Presidential elections due to take place before the end of the year had no chance of success in the current security situation, Mr. Sahnouni said, adding that "conditions for holding a presidential election have not yet been established."

Mr. Sahnouni recognised there were differences of opinion between the FIS leaders.

"We have tried and we will try again to unify our ranks, but we have not succeeded so far in attaining this objective," he said.

Finally, he admitted he did not know the whereabouts of the two top FIS leaders, Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhadj, and said he had only vague information concerning the transfer of Mr. Belhadj to the Sahara.

Official sources said Monday evening that Algerian President Lamine Zeroual met former Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim to discuss preparations for setting up a monitoring commission for presidential elec-

tions. The sources did not disclose the content of the meeting.

Mr. Ibrahim, member of the central committee of the National Liberation Front (FLN), formerly the ruling party, is considered in political circles and by the Algerian press to be close to the FIS.

By agreeing to meet the president, Mr. Ibrahim has set himself apart from his party.

The FLN, like other parties which signed a "national contract" in Rome in January this year, turned down the president's invitation.

Former head of government Mouloud Hamrouche, who belongs to the FLN's political office, has also accepted Mr. Zeroual's invitation, along with the former speaker of the National Assembly, Rabah Bitat, and former prime minister Belaid Salam.

Algeria's presidential election has already been rejected by most of Algeria's opposition, including the eight signatory parties to the "national contract" in Rome, who say the climate of violence is not conducive to free and fair elections.

## Report criticises study of 'Gulf war syndrome'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A U.S. Defense Department conclusion that no new or unique illness exists among Gulf war veterans was described Monday as unjustified and unproven by a committee of medical experts that analysed the work.

The committee, from the Institute of Medicine, said the Pentagon study should clarify health comparisons made among personnel who served in the Gulf with health studies of other populations and between military personnel who did and did not serve in the war.

The Institute of Medicine is a private research organisation associated with the National Academy of Sciences. The Pentagon asked it to analyse the Gulf war veterans health study.

At the first meeting of the presidential advisory committee on Gulf war veterans' illnesses, Hillary Rodham Clinton said her husband appointed the group because he is determined to find final answers to the health problems of thousands of Gulf war veterans.

"The research that the government has conducted indicates that thousands of veterans who were healthy when they left for the Gulf war are now ill," Mrs. Clinton said. "Many veterans believe that these symptoms cluster together into a Gulf war syndrome that is unique."

The Pentagon has given several reasons to explain the syndrome, contending that psychological problems were either the cause of one in five cases.

making this conclusion or justify it better."

The institute also said the Pentagon study should clarify health comparisons made among personnel who served in the Gulf with health studies of other populations and between military personnel who did and did not serve in the war.

The statement, released late on Monday, said the Saudi ambassador to Ankara had been summoned to the ministry to give an explanation for the executions.

"We expressed our dissatisfaction that our high-level attempts to have our subjects' lives spared in line with... humanitarian considerations have not been considered as they should, and requested that the angry reaction of our public be brought to the attention of those concerned," it said.

Ms. Bubbut was convicted of murder a year and a half ago for killing her husband Yehuda, emptying an entire cartridge of 31 bullets from a gun. At her trial, friends and relatives testified that her husband had beaten and psychologically abused her during the 24 years they were married.

Ms. Bubbut's case was seen as a flagship case for the Israeli women's movement, which was in an uproar when the original sentence was handed down. The lower court that sentenced her said the harsh sentence was necessary to deter people from taking the law into their own hands.

"I'm delighted," parliament member Naomi Chazan, a strong proponent of women's rights, said of Monday's ruling. "It indicates very clearly that the burden lies on all the various authorities that knew domestic violence was taking place for many years and didn't do as much as they should have."

Ms. Chazan is one of the sponsors of a bill that would allow reduced sentences for women who kill their abusive husbands.

"Public awareness of

## Syrian, Argentine officials discuss nuclear cooperation

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — A three-member Syrian technical delegation began talks Monday with Argentine officials on bilateral agreements on nuclear science and technology, a senior Argentine official said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando de la Petrelleira denied that they would be discussing the sale of nuclear reactors to Syria, but said any such sale would have to meet "very strict" requirements of Argentine law on the transfer of sensitive technology.

Argentina observes "absolute transparency concerning the transfer of technology

and will not begrudge information to the international regulatory bodies," Petrelleira told AFP.

He said the Syrians were holding the nuclear talks with Guillermo Gonzalez, the foreign ministry's under secretary for foreign policy.

The daily Página/12 reported Sunday that the purpose of the Syrians' trip was to negotiate the purchase of a nuclear reactor from Argentina.

Diplomatic sources here said Syria, which like Argentina is a signatory of the nuclear Non-Proliferation

Treaty, was interested in buying a three-megawatt reactor and was prepared to agree in writing that it be used only for the purposes of medical research.

In Washington, meanwhile, Argentine diplomats denied reports that the nuclear negotiations actually began in the U.S. capital Ang. 11.

Petrelleira also denied reports that an international commission composed of representatives of Argentina, Israel and the United States might analyse such a sale.

He acknowledged that the idea of forming such a com-

mission had been raised during a visit to Tel Aviv July 25 by Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella, but was later rejected.

Argentine-Syrian talks on nuclear cooperation, which began at the start of the decade, were suspended in 1991 under pressure from the United States and Israel.

They resumed in last year after a visit to Syria by President Carlos Menem, who is of Syrian descent.

An official document outlining the Argentine government position said the talks in Buenos Aires were "of a

preliminary character and will be aimed at defining possible areas of future cooperation."

The document, obtained in Washington, said the Syrians had expressed interest in receiving Argentine cooperation in this field.

The document said Mr. Di Tella assured the Israelis that Argentine nuclear cooperation with any Middle Eastern country would be bound by "the exclusively peaceful use of any material and knowledge exported and the need to not alter the regional politico-technological balance."

## Sudan, Ethiopia fall out over 'plotters'

CAIRO (AFP) — Relations between Sudan and Ethiopia are deteriorating because Khartoum refuses to hand over three Egyptians implicated in an attack on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa, an Arab daily said Tuesday.

Relations between the two countries have "reached the point of no return due to the implication of Sudan" in the failed assassination attempt on June 26, the London-based Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, received in Cairo.

Addis Ababa declined to suspend the opening of consulates in several Sudanese towns near the border and brought back furniture and equipment already shipped to the Red Sea city of Port Sudan, the paper said.

Khartoum responded by delaying the opening of its own consulates in Ethiopian cities, the paper said.

Ethiopia has also closed the Addis Ababa office of a Sudanese Islamic humanitarian group, Muwafaq, the paper said without specifying when the closure occurred.

Sudanese employees in Sudanese and Arab humanitarian groups had already been thrown out of Ethiopia soon after the failed attack on Mr. Mubarak.

Al-Sharq Al-Awsat reported on Monday that relations between Sudan and Ethiopia were threatened "if Sudan did not extradite the three Egyptians demanded by Addis Ababa for planning the attack on Mubarak."

But in August Ethiopia said two Egyptians planned the attack "from abroad" while one of the attackers fled to a foreign country.

It named Moustafa Hamza, a leader of the militant Gamaa Islamiyah, and a deputy, Izzat Yassin, as the masterminds, while Hussein Ahmad Shahit Ali, also known as Siraj Muhammad Hussein, was the fugitive.

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In Washington, meanwhile, Argentine diplomats denied reports that the nuclear negotiations actually began in the U.S. capital Ang. 11.

Petrelleira also denied reports that an international commission composed of representatives of

# Home News

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## BRIEF

### Attack politician

s have denied that any assassination attempt on Hawash was criminal, and a Yemeni security official told *Al-Ahram* that authorities were looking into it as motivated by financial gain.

The King, himself an experienced aviator, congratulated the men on their distinguished performance.

The Royal Falcons team competed against aviators from different parts of the world. The team won the British Air Tattoo Cup for the best free-flying and formation performances.

King Hussein presented each team member with medals. The Royal Falcons formation display team is made up of Lieutenant Colonel Mansur Jobur, Captain Omar Hweij, Captain Tayseer Dahabi, Captain Omar Bilal, First Lieutenant Qusay Zaza, and engineers Riad Ayoub, Mahmoud Awad, Hussein Hammam, Ahmad Tawfiq, and Andoni Hananah.

Since their first appear-

ance in Qatar in Nov. 1978

millions of spectators in Europe, the Middle East, North America, Africa and the Far East.

The Royal Falcons operate as a highly specialised department of Royal Jordanian, the national carrier.



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday presents one of the members of the Royal Falcons air formation team with a medal at an audience in which he congratulated all 10 members of the team on their recent success (Petra photo)

## King congratulates, awards Royal Falcons

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received at the Royal Court the 10 members of Royal Falcons team who took part in aerial shows held last month in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Belgium.

The King, himself an experienced aviator, congratulated the men on their distinguished performance.

The Royal Falcons team competed against aviators from different parts of the world. The team won the British Air Tattoo Cup for the best free-flying and formation performances.

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## Contractors association to build Irbid branch complex, says president

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA) Tuesday awarded Al Khalij Construction Company a JD 200,000 contract to build a JCA branch building in Irbid.

JCA President Mohammad Murad told the Jordan Times that the firm will take 400 days to finish the complex which will comprise offices, a conference hall and other basic utilities, adding that the complex could be ready

for occupancy in the second half of 1996.

Mr. Murad said that a permanent complex in Irbid was necessary to serve the estimated 5,000 contractors in the northern regions of Jordan.

The JCA has taken a decision to establish yet another branch for the southern regions of the country to be located in Karak because the south has almost the same number of contractors as the north, and the concerned JCA department Tuesday

started studying the bids for the construction of the Karak branch, according to Mr. Murad.

He said most of the contractors are concentrated in Amman which has 500 contracting firms undertaking various construction projects.

The contract for the Irbid complex was signed by Mr. Murad and Al Khalij General Manager Abdul Munem Hamdan.

## Amman municipality plans to build zoo

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipality plans to build a zoo on the outskirts of Amman, according to the Director of the municipality's Gardens Department, Haitham Jweinat, Tuesday.

The zoo, to be built at Ghadman Park near Um Al Kundum, on the airport road, will be spread across an area of 3,000 dunums, he said.

The project was decided on in response to public requests as well as in the

interests of the tourism industry.

Mr. Jweinat said the municipality had laid the infrastructure for the zoo, and investors and concerned firms were welcome to bid for its construction.

The municipality has also started work on a bird garden at Ras Al Ain which will be the third in the Amman area after Prince Hashem Garden in Shmeisani and the Hamzeh Garden in Marka,

according to Mr. Jweinat.

He said the Amman area currently has 130 public gardens on a total area of 1,100 dunums, and work is proceeding on creating new public gardens in the coming few months on the road to the King Hussein Medical Centre, at Rashid district, in the town of Tareq near the lawyers' housing estate, in Tha'a Al Ali district, and in the Hamlan and Marka areas.

The refurbishing of the public gardens in Amman

will be completed before the end of 1995, said Mr. Jweinat, adding that palm trees which were presented to the city as a gift from the Baghdad municipality have already been planted in public gardens here.

Mr. Jweinat also announced that the municipality receives tree saplings for its projects from its own nurseries at Ain Ghazal, Sweileh and Abu Neir, which together grow one million saplings annually.



HEADS UP: Young boys unload watermelons at a local produce market in the Nouzha district of Amman (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FILM

Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.

\* "The Lady Vanishes" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

### PLAYS

\* "The Maids" (written by Jean Genet) starring Majid Al Qasas and Najwa Kondakji at the Royal Cultural Centre, Main Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

\* "Badranah" (in Arabic) at the Royal Cultural Centre, at 7:00 p.m.

### LECTURE

\* Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "An Attempt to Analyse the Nature and Contradictions of the Palestinian National Authority," by Mr. Walid Salim at Abdul

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Oil paintings by Yassin Al Mohammadawi at Baladna Art Gallery.

\* Abstract art by Fadwa Al Nabulsi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

\* Paintings by "Pioneers of the Fifties" Isma'il and Suzanne Al Sheikly, Khalid Qassab, and Dr. Nuri Behjet at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina.

\* "Exhibition of Chinese Products '95," at Al Bassam Hall, King Abdullah Gardens.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

By Beatrix Immenkamp  
Special to the Jordan Times

**Fire destroys files**

Aqaba (Petra) — A fire which broke out at the Water Authority offices in Aqaba Tuesday destroyed subscribers' files and a car which was the property of the office. Local police said they were investigating the cause of the fire.

**Minister, envoy discuss student acceptance**

Amman (J.T.) — Minister of Higher Education Rateb Saoud Tuesday discussed with Lebanese Chargé d'Affaires in Amman Gubraij Jaaroh the prospect of accepting Lebanese students in Jordanian universities. The minister said that Lebanese students wishing to study in Jordan will be sent to various universities in the country. The two sides also discussed facilities for Jordanian students to get visas to continue their studies in Lebanon.

Reports in the local press had said Jordanian students were finding it difficult to get visas to Lebanon.

As the evening progressed, spectators could move to the larger stage in

front of the local monastery, for a selection of drama, folklore and music presentations, including the political comedy "Hi Citizen", the Palestinian folklore group Hanuna and concerts by Jordanian, Syrian, Iraqi and Lebanese singers and musicians, including the famous Wadi' Safi and Elyas Karam from Syria.

Seated in the historic atmosphere of a newly restored quarter of Old Fuheis, warmed by the last rays of the evening sun, visitors were treated to a variety of seminars on famous local personalities, classical poetry, regional architecture, cinema and social issues.

As the evening progressed, spectators could move to the larger stage in



Lebanese singer Wadi' Safi sings at the finale of the Sixth Annual Fuheis Festival Monday night (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

1,000 youngsters, is the driving force behind the idea and the organisation of the festival.

Mr. Akroush told the Jordan Times that the idea for the festival was generated by a politically, socially and culturally interested membership, who wanted to discover more about the history and heritage of the region.

Starting initially with seminars and lectures for members of the club six years ago, the idea was conceived to condense events into a week-long festival open to the public.

The emphasis of the festival is on cultural erudition rather than on entertainment.

"We are essentially a cultural festival, very interested in national culture and identity and in Arab culture and identity. Even on the entertainment level, in concerts or drama, we try to present what is strictly art," said Mr. Akroush.

Mr. Akroush stressed that the festival's emphasis on regional culture should by no means be interpreted as partisanship.

The festival would like, in following years, to invite participants from North Africa, Europe and beyond.

"We are concerned about human culture in the general sense, but nevertheless with a special interest in Arabic

society and its special characteristics. But once the subject of Arabic culture has been addressed extensively, there is no reason not to broaden the scope to include other cultures of the world."

Residents of Fuheis attending the festival say they are pleased with the festival's success, demonstrated by the high rate of attendance.

Starting initially with seminars and lectures for members of the club six years ago, the idea was conceived to condense events into a week-long festival open to the public.

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## Fuheis festival, hailed a success, faces doubtful future

By Beatrix Immenkamp  
Special to the Jordan Times

**Club.** According to Adel Rousan from the Ministry of Youth, Jordanian law allows clubs to organise two events per year of which the revenues are not taxed by the government. The Ministry of Finance considers a single performance as one event.

The Fuheis Youth Club organises an average of two performances a day in the context of the festival which lasts for seven days. So after the first day, performances are taxed," Mr. Rousan said.

President of the Organising Committee of the Sixth Fuheis Festival Yassir Akroush told the Jordan Times that the ministry's decision, for the first time, to claim a 20 per cent tax on the festival's revenues will force the Fuheis Youth Club, which organises the event, to sell its assets to pay the tax.

"This would not only mean the end of the Fuheis festival, but it would also threaten the survival of the Fuheis Youth Club," Mr. Akroush, who is president of the club, said.

He explained that "were it not for the government's decision to tax the festival this year, the revenues of the festival would cover its costs, as has been the case in previous years. But if we have to pay tax on the revenue, the club can only generate the money by selling its assets. This would be the end of the Fuheis Youth

displayed in local houses or in tents erected for the purpose. Exhibitions included a display of old icons and religious paraphernalia in one of the local churches, a photo exhibition on the life of former Prime Minister Wasfi Tal, an exhibition on Karak as a model Arabic city as well as a collection, for children, of folklore and popular heritage items.

Several exhibitions accompanied the festival,

streets of Old Fuheis were filled every night with visitors strolling leisurely from one event to another, stopping on the way for ice cream or a shawarma sandwich.

Stalls selling local handicraft lined the narrow alleys, adding to the atmosphere of the celebration of Middle Eastern/local culture.

The Fuheis Youth Club, its

membership exceeding

1,000 youngsters, is the driving force behind the idea and the organisation of the festival.

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# Japanese prime minister apologises for war atrocities

TOKYO (R) — In a landmark statement, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on Tuesday made Japan's first clear cut apology for its World War II actions but he firmly ruled out reopening discussions on compensation for victims.

Mr. Murayama delivered the historic apology in somber tones on national television, reading a statement that had the weight of the Japanese government behind it because the wording was cleared by all three partners in his ruling coalition.

Speaking on the 50th anniversary of Japan's defeat in World War II, Mr. Murayama did not hold back in admitting wrongdoing and in apologising for it.

"During a certain period in the not too distant past, Japan, following a mistaken national policy, advanced along the road to war, only to ensnare the Japanese people in a fateful crisis and through its colonial rule and aggression caused tremendous damage and suffering to people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations," he said.

"In the hope that no such mistake be made in the future, I regard, in a spirit of

humility, these irrefutable facts of history, and express here once again my feelings of deep remorse and state my heartfelt apology," Mr. Murayama said.

Mr. Murayama's statement made him the first prime minister to use the sensitive word "apology," instead of words like "remorse" and "regret," in a public speech about the war.

But at a later press conference, Mr. Murayama dashed hopes of former allied prisoners of war that the change of mood might also lead to discussions about compensation for victims.

"All individual compensation has been dealt with in the 1952 San Francisco peace treaty and other bilateral treaties," he said. "We have faithfully met terms of those agreements."

Former prisoners of war from Britain, Australia, the United States and other allied nations have stepped up demands for compensation this anniversary year. Tokyo courts are considering several suits filed by PoW groups in which they demand individual compensation of about \$22,000 each.

Many former "comfort women" — women from

Korea, China, the Philippines and the Netherlands forced to serve at battlefield brothels — are also demanding compensation.

There appeared no immediate groundswell of anger against Mr. Murayama from rightwing groups. His statement coincided with a newspaper poll which said more than 50 per cent of Japanese do not believe enough has been done to atone for the past.

But in a sign of the divisions that still exist in Japanese society, 10 of the prime minister's 20-man cabinet attended unofficial ceremonies at Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, site of the country's biggest shrine for war dead.

The dead include class A war criminals like executed wartime Prime Minister Hideki Tojo.

"Remorse and apology is just what the government says," said Tadashi Yamada, 75, who prayed at the shrine.

"It's a big mistake to think this is what Japanese people think."

The apology followed a parliamentary resolution in July which only expressed "deep reflection" about Japan's history of aggression

and brutal colonial rule. The focus of Tuesday's commemorative services had been on whether the country's first socialist prime minister would be bolder to utter the word "apology" in a public speech.

Ministers at a cabinet meeting where the wording of the statement was cleared only hours before its delivery, said the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), senior partner in the coalition, did not fight the use of the word.

The LDP, in power almost exclusively since World War II, had forced Mr. Murayama to tone down the parliamentary resolution.

Economic Planning Minister Isamu Miyazaki told a news conference Mr. Murayama read the statement and asked cabinet members if there were any objections to the wording.

"Nobody objected to the prime minister's wording," Mr. Miyazaki said.

Mr. Murayama reverted to more muted language in a later speech to relatives of Japan's three million war dead, using the traditional terms "deep reflection and sincere condolences."



Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama makes his speech on the 50th anniversary of the World War II end Tuesday at his official residence (AFP photo)

## Not all are happy in Asia with Japanese apology

HONG KONG (R) — Asian governments welcomed Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's apology on Tuesday for World War II actions, but veterans and victims of Japan's aggression demanded more to ease their painful memories.

Mr. Murayama's apology, issued on the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, followed a parliamentary resolution in July that expressed only "deep reflection."

That gesture had disappointed Asian countries, some of which suffered years of painful Japanese colonial rule or brutal aggression by Japan's imperial army during the war.

"I think this must be hailed by all sides from all over the world," Philippines President Fidel Ramos said of Mr. Murayama's apology.

Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating said Mr. Murayama's apology was comprehensive and would satisfy most of the wartime opponents of Japan.

But South Korea, which said it would wait and see what Japan did after Mr. Murayama issued the apology, urged Japan to go further in accounting for its wartime actions.

"We want the Japanese government to make serious

efforts to thoroughly reveal the truth of history and have a proper understanding of history," the Seoul foreign ministry said.

Mr. Murayama, who made Japan's first unambiguous apology for its aggression in a landmark statement, said this did not mean Tokyo would meet demands for compensation.

But for many victims, that remains a key issue.

Former World War II enemies attending ceremonies in Thailand at the site of the infamous Thai-Burma "death railway" dismissed the apology as an empty gesture unless Japan compensated victims of its aggression.

"If he doesn't say anything about compensation it's nothing, it's lip service, I don't believe it," said former Japanese soldier Nagase Takashi, 77.

Mr. Takashi, who served as an interpreter for Japanese forces overseeing the allied prisoners of war and Asian slave labourers who built the railway, said all of those who suffered under Japanese rule should be compensated.

Australian veteran David Barrett, 73, of Tasmania said: "A governmental apology without compensation is only a token. I don't need money but there are a lot of

widows whose husbands died prematurely who do."

Hong Kong people welcomed the apology but said action, not only words, were needed to heal the wounds.

"That's a good start. The fact that he said it is good," said legislator Emily Lau. "I think people will want to pursue (compensation). I certainly hope the Japanese government will keep an open mind on this and not say that it is out of the question."

Mr. Murayama said in a speech that all compensation claims had been settled by the San Francisco peace treaty and other bilateral treaties.

Tsu Szeman, owner of the Hong Kong news weekly Mirror, said: "For China, just apology is not enough. Japan's war with China was the longest and China suffered the most casualties, much higher than Hiroshima and Nagasaki."

Australia's veterans, meanwhile, called on Japanese Emperor Akihito to apologise for his nation's actions.

"This is a good step, but I would still want the imperial household to support it and indeed promote an apology on behalf of the nation," said the president of the Australian Returned Services League, William "Digger" James.

## Britons unhappy with apology

LONDON (R) — British veterans accused Japan of fudging an apology for its wartime actions on Tuesday and some said they might call for a boycott of Japanese goods.

Groups representing the 16,000 British survivors of Japanese war camps said they had been hoping for an unequivocal apology on behalf of the entire Japanese nation to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Speaking to Tokyo, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said that to forego any mistakes by Japan in the future: "I would like to express anew my deep reflection and sincere apologies."

Although one survivor called the statement "epoch making," others saw it as an entirely personal expression of remorse.

"There was the ideal opportunity for the Japanese to wipe the slate clean by unequivocally apologising and agreeing to compensate the people they treated so barbarically in the Second World War," said Arthur Titherington, secretary of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors Association.

## Seoul students and police clash as Koreans celebrate liberation

SEOUL (AFP) — Thousands of students calling for early unification of the two Koreas battled with police here Tuesday, marking the 50th anniversary of liberation from Japanese rule.

In the worst street violence here this year, some 10,000 students, many wielding metal pipes, battled with tear gas and riot police in several areas of the northern suburbs, while trying to march to the border for a banned rally with North Koreans.

Some 60 riot police were injured and 20 of them were hospitalised after the clashes, the national Yonhap News Agency said.

At an intersection leading to the road to the truce village of Panmunjom, a contingent of 200 police troops were overpowered, disarmed and beaten by the students, witnesses said.

The incidents caused snarling traffic jams in the area, leaving vacationers stuck sweltering in their cars and suffering from the tear gas.

Shouting "national unification," the demonstrators repeatedly charged towards a blockade formed by some 3,000 police who fired volleys

of tear gas from black armoured vehicles, they said.

The confrontation lasted for five hours as the students battled their way through police lines and proceeded some three kilometres before abandoning their march.

They later regrouped at downtown Sungkyunkwan University to continue protests. Police said 17,000 riot police were mobilised throughout the city.

The violence coincided with a massive ceremony presided over by South Korean President Kim Young-Sam in central Seoul to commemorate the end of Japan's occupation half a century ago.

The official ceremony was highlighted by the beginning of the demolition of a building symbolic of Japanese colonial rule.

An 11-tonne chunk of the spire on the green dome of the old Japanese colonial headquarters was lowered by a giant crane to the beat of drums, the explosion of firecrackers and applause.

Five jet fighters, trailing violet and pink smoke, were allowed for the first time since the end of the 1950-53

## Human milk may be cancer fighter

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Human milk might help fight cancer, according to Swedish laboratory tests published Tuesday. Researchers have found an ingredient called monomeric a-lactalbumin, or MAL, that caused cancer cells to die in test tubes. The results were made public in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Tuesday. At Lund University in Lund, Sweden, and at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, researchers said they were studying the effects of milk on bacteria associated with lung cancer when they made the discovery of its effect on the cancer itself. "We were surprised to discover that the milk killed the (lung cancer) cells," the authors of the report said. In one experiment, MAL killed 98 per cent of human lung cancer cells, while leaving normal cells unscathed. The researchers said the milk component triggers apoptosis, a process where by cancerous cells kill themselves. The ingredient also helped destroy test tube cells of bladder, kidney and intestinal cancer. The tests included only laboratory cells grown for experiments. No living animals were used in the tests.

## Sri Lanka hospital seeks snake-bite victims

COLOMBO (R) — A hospital in the ancient Sri Lankan capital of Anuradhapura is desperately seeking victims of the deadly Russell's viper. Doctors at Anuradhapura Hospital have come up with their own anti-venom, which is proving a success with victims of the Russell's viper, one of the country's 83 species of snake. Until now they had been using a less-effective Indian concoction designed to treat victims of the Indian Russell's viper. But for the anti-venom to win government approval, the doctors need to treat at least 75 victims to complete a trial before the end of October, said Dr. Ranee Ariaratnam. So far they have treated only 12, albeit successfully. "We are desperately in need of victims of the Sri Lankan Russell's viper," she told Reuters.

"The victims don't have to be Sri Lankan. Anyone is welcome."

## Heat fells U.S. woman who broke all-male Citadel

CHARLESTON, South Carolina (R) — Shannon Faulkner, who fought a bitter legal battle to become the first woman admitted to an elite all-male U.S. military school, missed the official swearing-in ceremonies Monday after succumbing to extreme heat. While temperatures exceeding 100 degrees (38 degrees Celsius) forced Ms. Faulkner into the infirmary during the ceremony, she is still a cadet at the school known as the Citadel. "It's a formality. They can do it later," Citadel spokesman Terry Leedom said of the ceremony. Ms. Faulkner is still a cadet at the school known as the Citadel. "It's a formality. They can do it later," Citadel spokesman Terry Leedom said of the ceremony.

The commandant of the Citadel, General Anatoly Shchegolev, told the AP that the school would begin its annual summer session on Monday. Officials later said three male candidates also were not present.

## Archbishop resigns over sexual abuse charges

VIENNA (AFP) — The archbishop of Vienna, accused of sexually abusing young seminarians 20 years ago, announced his resignation Tuesday. Cardinal Hans-Hermann Groer, 75, made the announcement during mass and said he would step down Sept. 14. Groer said his resignation had been accepted by Pope John Paul II. The allegations against Groer by Josef Hartmann, a 37-year-old former seminary student, plunged the Roman Catholic church into its worst crisis since World War II. Hartmann said Groer sexually abused him for four years. After Hartmann made his allegations in a magazine interview, other former students of Groer came forward with similar charges.

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (AP) — Rebels reported Saturday that they had seized the presidential palace and machine-gunned people in the central province of Cibitoke. Radio reported that rebels had taken control of the capital, Bujumbura, and that they were fighting their way through the city. The rebels, who are reportedly supported by Tanzanian troops, had seized the presidential palace and machine-gunned people in the central province of Cibitoke. Radio reported that rebels had taken control of the capital, Bujumbura, and that they were fighting their way through the city.

Two other provinces, Muyinga and Ruyigi, also reported that rebels had seized their provincial capitals. The rebels are reportedly supported by Tanzanian troops.

The attacks are the latest in a series of mounting of fighting between rebels and government forces in neighbouring Rwanda and Uganda.

## Panamanian unions lift strike

PANAMA CITY (AFP) — Panamanian union leaders called off a strike Monday from President Ernesto Perez signed a law revamping the labour code, which ignited 10 days of sometimes violent protests that claimed four lives.

Fearing riots, more than 300 riot police surrounded the Panamanian presidential palace as Mr. Perez signed the law, which makes it easier for employers to lay off workers, lower their wages in times of crisis.

But the decision by 49 unions that endorsed the strike by some 20,000 workers, most of them from the construction and banana industries, defused a potentially violent showdown.

"We want the Japanese government to make serious

foreign investment and lower unemployment, now at 13.6 per cent.

But the construction workers say the measures would leave them defenceless and will not help create jobs.

Since the strike began Aug. 4, four people have been killed, dozens have been injured and more than 400 have been detained in clashes with police.

Opposition lawmaker Arturo Villalino said the amendments "for Perez are a trophy he will be delighted to show international financial institutions."

Protests began to gather steam Monday after a relatively calm weekend despite Saturday's hot-button decision by lawmakers.

## Sao Tome president seized in coup

SAO TOME, Sao Tome and Principe (AP) — Rebel military officers stormed the presidential palace of this western African island nation before dawn Tuesday and seized President Miguel Trovoada.

Mr. Trovoada and defence minister Alberto Paulino were being held prisoner in the country's main military barracks, loyalist soldiers told the Associated Press.

The rebel officers have seized control of state radio and the airport and have positioned armoured vehicles on highways leading to the capital. Soldiers with assault rifles were patrolling the main streets of town.

It was not yet known who

was leading the coup.

Rebel officer Lt. Quintes Almeida appeared on national TV, asking civilians to stay at home and remain calm, and warning that looters could be shot.

Mr. Almeida said he represented "the new military generation," which is believed to be unhappy with the minor role it has been relegated since Sao Tome relinquished one-party rule in 1991.

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The coup comes less than

one year after Trovoada called democratic elections in order to break parliamentary deadlock in the small, two-island nation some 285 kilometres west of Gabon.

Mr. Trovoada, a one-time prisoner and political exile of the former ruling Socialist Party, rose to the presidency in the country's first multi-party elections in 1991.

Rui Vaeira, spokesman for the Portuguese embassy, confirmed that the president

and defence minister were being detained, but said he did not know who was masterminding the overthrow.

"This comes as a big surprise," Mr. Vaeira said on Portuguese TSF Radio. "We have not been contacted."

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prisoner and political exile of the former ruling Socialist Party, rose to the presidency in the country's first multi-party elections in 1991.

Rui Vaeira, spokesman for the Portuguese embassy, confirmed that the president

said the prime minister, referring to the slaying of the Norwegian hostage by Kashmiri separatists.

The kidnappers have threatened to kill four other Western hostages they are still holding unless India frees

# World News



A plainclothes Chinese policeman (right) rips an anti-nuclear protest banner from the hands of Greenpeace activists Tuesday in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. The banner was unfurled for about 15 seconds before police detained the activists and also some journalists witnessing the protest (AFP photo)

## Pro-Beijing camp poised for gains in Hong Kong polls

HONG KONG (AFP) — Pro-Beijing forces are poised to make solid gains in next month's Hong Kong legislative elections, after leading a record number of candidates for the last polls to be held under British rule, analysts say.

Nominations for the Sept. 17 elections have closed and nearly half the 138 hopefuls either belong to Hong Kong's leading pro-Beijing party and trade union or to China-appointed bodies.

They are running despite Beijing's vow to dissolve the Legislative Council when it takes back Hong Kong on July 1, 1997 after Governor Chris Patten pushed through a package of political reforms without its blessing.

Pro-Beijing candidates fared poorly in past elections as voters threw their support behind democrats who were willing to stand up to China in the aftermath of the Tiananmen massacre six years ago.

But as worries about Hong Kong's economy overtake memories of Tiananmen, analysts say pro-Beijing forces could well emerge from next month's elections with a solid presence, if not a majority of the 60 seats at

stake.

"My rough estimate is that the pro-China camp is going to win a little less than one third of the seats — 17 or 18," said political scientist Joseph Cheng of City Polytechnic University of Hong Kong.

"You have to give them credit for their financial resources and manpower resources," he added. "They have also done a very good job in organising grassroots networks."

Part of those resources, he said, is the Federation of Trade Unions, which has long been the biggest pro-China mass organisation in Hong Kong with more than 20,000 members — far more than any other labour group.

In the pro-democracy camp, the Democratic Party, which swept the last elections in 1991, is fielding 25 candidates, with another five coming from the like-minded Confederation of Trade Unions.

Several independents with strong pro-democracy views are also running.

They include Christine Loh, a Patten appointee to the outgoing legislature, and Emily Lau, who has emerged in recent opinion polls as Hong Kong's most popular political personality.

Others are among the Legislative Council candidates, as well as 14 hopefuls from the biggest pro-Beijing political party in the territory, the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong.

Candidates from China-appointed bodies include 27 advisers to Beijing on Hong Kong affairs, 19 district advisers, and 10 members of the Preliminary Working Committee, charged with preparing for the 1997 handover.

Ironically, it is the Preliminary Working Committee — whose chairman is China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen — that is responsible for deciding how the post-1997 legislature is to be elected.

In the pro-democracy camp, the Democratic Party, which swept the last elections in 1991, is fielding 25 candidates, with another five coming from the like-minded Confederation of Trade Unions.

Several independents with strong pro-democracy views are also running.

They include Christine Loh, a Patten appointee to the outgoing legislature, and Emily Lau, who has emerged in recent opinion polls as Hong Kong's most popular political personality.

## Red Cross: China floods claim 1,500 lives

BELIJNG (AFP) — At least 1,500 people have been killed in floods in China since May, the Red Cross said Tuesday, launching an appeal for international aid for the estimated two million people worst hit by the devastation.

Up to 144 million Chinese have been affected by the floods in eight provinces, the international organisation (ICRC) and the Chinese Red Cross told a joint press conference. They said these figures were only provisional.

A total of 1.9 million houses have been destroyed and another seven million damaged. Altogether 7.4 million hectares of land under cultivation have been ravaged by the floods.

Economic losses are estimated at about 118 billion yuan (\$14.2 billion), said the Red Cross, adding that about \$9 million were needed in immediate aid for the worst-hit flood victims.

The southern provinces of Hunan and Guizhou have suffered most, with 404 and 286 deaths respectively.

Floods in Liaoning province, northeast China, the worst this century, caused 100 deaths, the Red Cross said.

BEIJING (Agencies) — Police detained six Western activists of the environmental group Greenpeace on Tuesday after they unfurled protest banners in Beijing's Tiananmen Square demanding that China end its nuclear tests.

The protest, unprecedented for Greenpeace,

was timed to coincide with Beijing's rumoured plans to hold a nuclear test in the next seven days and its announcement of missile tests off the east coast near Taiwan, a group spokesman said.

"Stop all nuclear testing Greenpeace," read black words in English painted on a yellow banner, which the activists held up under the portrait of revolutionary leader Mao Tsetung that adorns Tiananmen gate overlooking the huge central plaza.

"Ban nuclear tests in China," the banner said in Chinese.

Within seconds, a Chinese policeman in plainclothes dashed forward and ripped the eight-metre banner from the hands of five Greenpeace activists.

The anti-nuclear environment

mentalists then pulled out five smaller banners, which police also snatched away.

"This is our first action in China," Greenpeace France Director Penelope Komites said before the protest. "We had never done something like this in so we feel it was time to take action."

The protest, unprecedented for Greenpeace, was timed to coincide with Beijing's rumoured plans to hold a nuclear test in the next seven days and its announcement of missile tests off the east coast near Taiwan, a group spokesman said.

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The anti-nuclear environment

mentalist and after signing "self-criticisms."

The detained activists included Greenpeace Executive Director Thilo Bode and the national directors from the four other nuclear states, who were threatening to destroy this consensus with imminent nuclear tests."

No Chinese took part.

"China is preparing an imminent nuclear weapons test and we are calling on the Chinese government to join with the other countries around the planet in taking every effort to stop nuclear testing," Greenpeace spokesman Damon Moglen said.

A foreign ministry official declined to comment on the protest or on the Greenpeace demand.

An atomic power since the mid-1960s, China conducted its most recent nuclear test in May.

Beijing has pledged to stop nuclear testing once a global Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty comes into force and says it backs moves to put the pact into effect in 1996.

Only France and China now have testing programmes, while the United States, Britain and Russia have halted theirs.

"We feel that this is a very important historical moment," Mr. Moglen said in Beijing. "There is genuinely an international consensus to ban testing and China and France both threaten to destroy this consensus with imminent nuclear tests."

Western diplomats say they expect China to conduct two more tests this year and three in 1996 on grounds that its test programme lags those of the other nuclear powers.

France caused a global outcry by announcing an end to its suspension of nuclear tests and planning eight tests between September and next May in the South Pacific Atoll of Mururoa.

In Bonn, the German government demanded that China immediately release three Germans arrested at anti-nuclear demonstration in Beijing.

The German embassy in Beijing was seeking to learn their whereabouts and the Chinese embassy in Bonn had also been contacted, a foreign ministry statement said.

"We are going to demand their immediate release at every level," a spokesman added.

## Taiwan to lobby foreign countries to condemn China over nuke tests

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan will lobby countries in Northeast Asia to condemn China's latest missile tests in the East China Sea, Foreign Minister Fredrick Chien said Tuesday, the day China set to start a new series of exercises.

A total of 1.9 million houses have been destroyed and another seven million damaged. Altogether 7.4 million hectares of land under cultivation have been ravaged by the floods.

Up to 144 million Chinese have been affected by the floods in eight provinces, the international organisation (ICRC) and the Chinese Red Cross told a joint press conference. They said these figures were only provisional.

Within seconds, a Chinese policeman in plainclothes dashed forward and ripped the eight-metre banner from the hands of five Greenpeace activists.

The anti-nuclear environment

to calm people's fears. Prime Minister Lien Chan said Beijing needed Taiwan's huge investments and Vincent Siew, chairman of the cabinet's Mainland Affairs Council, said people should have confidence in the government's ability to defend them.

"If anything abnormal happens, please contact the radio station on the shore as soon as possible and we will offer assistance," Hu Hsing-Hua, head of the provincial government's Fishery Bureau, said in a broadcast to Taiwan fishing boats in the East China Sea.

Hundreds of fishing boats docked during what they said was the traditional peak fishing season, with some rushing back to the port with only half their normal catch.

"There should be a peacekeeping fund in this region. In case any unfortunate thing happens in the Asia-Pacific region, the United Nations can use the fund for troops," Mr. Chien said.

Some 25,000 Taiwan firms, capitalised at between \$10 billion and \$20 billion, already operate in China.

On the eve of the tests on Monday, Mr. Lien said Taiwan should show utmost confidence and determination to ensure its safety and

the island had already prepared perfect countermeasures.

Bilateral relations soured markedly after President Lee Teng-Hui's private visit to the United States in June, seen by Beijing as a move towards independence by Taiwan, which Beijing has regarded as a rebel province since the end of a Chinese civil war in 1949.

China's last series of missile tests from July 2 to 26 in the sea north of Taiwan had triggered widespread fear. The announcement last Thursday of a second series sent financial markets into tatters, and Taiwan's dollar tumbling.

There was no word on whether the second series of Chinese tests had started. "We have no fresh information. Everything is normal so far," said an official at the defence ministry spokesman's office.

## Chechens agree to begin disarming Wednesday

MOSCOW (AP) — Chechen rebels reportedly agreed to begin laying down their weapons on Wednesday, just hours after Russian President Boris Yeltsin threatened "extraordinary measures unless they disbanded.

The commander of the Russian military in Chechnya, Lieutenant-General Anatoly Romanov, told the ITAR-TASS news agency Tuesday the rebels would begin surrendering their weapons somewhere in Chechnya on Wednesday.

Mr. Romanov refused to say where the event would take place, and he offered no further details, the news agency said.

However, when asked if the Chechen agreement to lay down their weapons

meant the rejection of the use of force as a means for disarming the rebels, Mr. Romanov replied yes, ITAR-TASS reported.

Earlier Mr. Yeltsin told reporters that he was prepared to resume military action unless the rebels answered his 6 p.m. (1400 GMT) ultimatum to disarm immediately.

Mr. Yeltsin's harsh comments had threatened the fragile efforts to bring peace to Chechnya. A ceasefire has been regularly violated by both sides, but fighting has subsided considerably in recent months.

Peace talks in Grozny between the Russians and the rebels to work out a political settlement to the war were suspended Tuesday for two days following a Chechen request for time to consult with Mr. Dudayev, Interfax said.

Killing are reported virtually every day, despite a period of relative calm which followed a visit by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali in mid-July, when he appealed for reconciliation.

Those that do live in the northern suburbs of Kamenge and Kinama, but frequently take to the hills as Tutsi soldiers and militiamen battle with Hutu militias.

In the capital, killings are estimated to be running at 20 to 40 a week before that. Virtually none of the killers are ever arrested or punished.

In Rwanda, extremist Hutus killed more than half a million Tutsis, moderate Hutus and their families before the victory of a Tutsi rebel army after a three-month civil war which ended in July last year.

BURJUMBURA (AFP) — Assailants armed with a grenade and machetes killed 30 people in the central Burundian province of Karuzi, state radio reported Tuesday, raising fears of renewed ethnic bloodletting in the east African country.

The state radio station reported that the killings took place Monday but did not specify the ethnicity of attackers or victims.

Two other people were killed at Bugenyizi in the same province by unidentified attackers on Sunday, the radio said.

The attacks are the latest in a series of massacres in Burundi, where fears are mounting of full-scale civil war on the scale of that in neighbouring Rwanda last year.

BURJUMBURA (AFP) — On Friday, and Saturday,

group claims responsibility for Colombia massacre

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — A paramilitary group claimed responsibility Monday for a weekend massacre of 18 people in a dance hall in a strife-torn area of northwest Colombia.

The attack occurred Saturday night in Chigorodó, a town in the banana-growing region of Urabá, which has been plagued by political violence for years. Gunmen opened fire in the dance hall and shot people as they tried to run out the door.

In a statement faxed to Radio Caracol, a group calling itself "Commandos for a Popular Alternative" said it carried out the attack in reprisal for the murders earlier Saturday of six people, including two soldiers.

The massacre was the work of a group of private justice," said Col. Carlos Alfonso Velasquez, commander of the army's 17th brigade, which is investigating the murders. He did not provide details.

Authorities believe leftist guerrillas were responsible for the earlier killings in the nearby town of Apartado.

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## Jordan Times

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## Mission possible is on

THE SECOND visit of Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti to Riyadh in less than a month assumes greater significance coming as it does in the wake of the recent developments in the region, particularly the defection of a key member of the Iraqi regime to Jordan several days ago. Before departing Amman, last night, the foreign minister sounded upbeat about restoring Jordanian-Saudi ties to previous levels of understanding and cooperation. Obstacles to improving ties with Riyadh have been removed, Mr. Kabariti said, and we expect to renew fraternal relations at all levels and in all fields. The crowning achievement being of course a Jordanian-Saudi meeting at the head-of-state level as early as possible.

We agree with the foreign minister that the stage is set for a summit between Their Majesties King Hussein and King Fahd. There should be no preconditions set before such a meeting takes place, however, since the two leaders can themselves talk about and clear all misunderstanding that happened due to the Gulf crisis and war in 1990 and 1991. The situation in Iraq in particular needs not be an impediment to improved Saudi-Jordanian and Arab-Arab relations generally, since all Arabs have a vested interest in regional stability and in alleviating the hardships and suffering of the Iraqi people and in rehabilitating Iraq, as a peaceful and responsible state, into the Arab World and the community of nations.

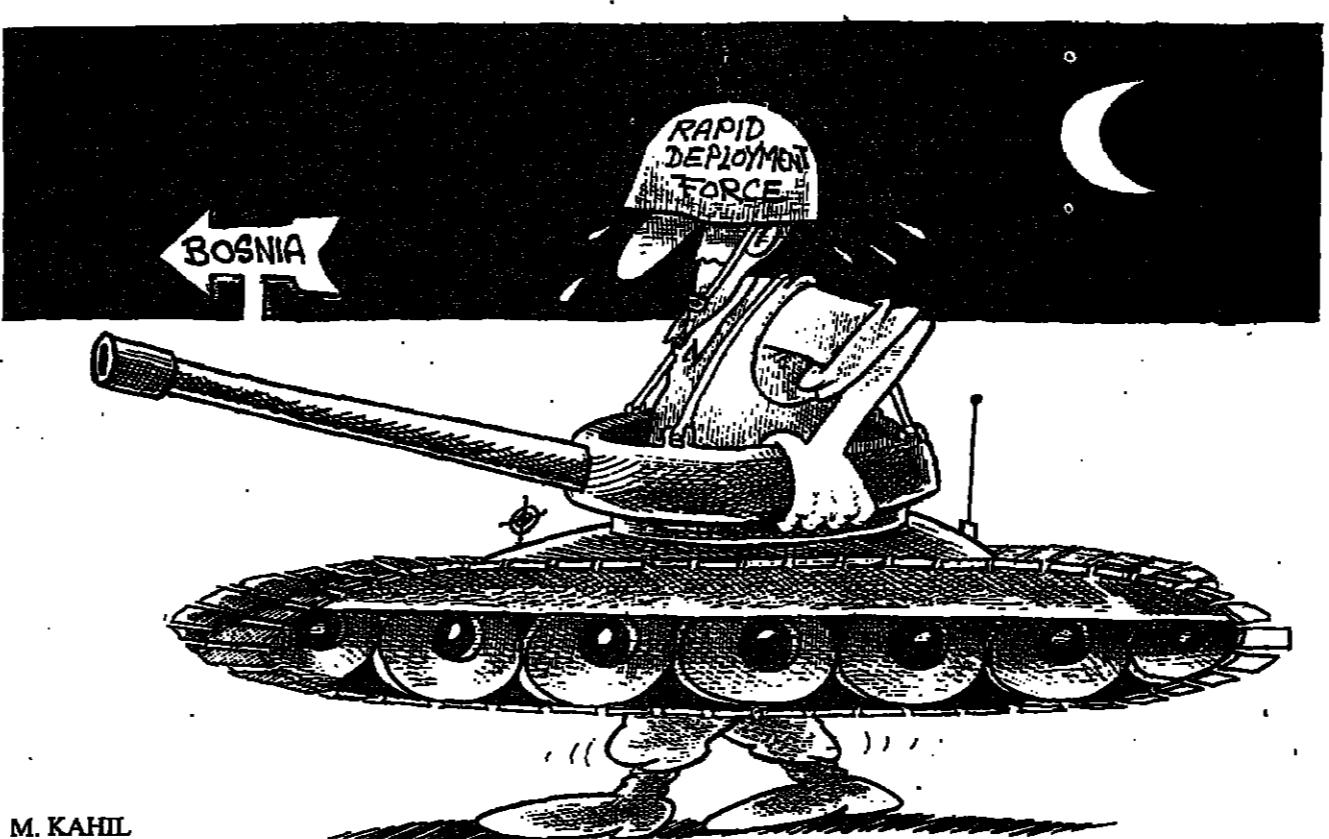
The interests of Iraq as a sovereign, united state and its people should transcend all other considerations, and the return to normality in Jordanian relations with Saudi Arabia and the other Arab Gulf countries can only help in meeting that objective. We believe that improving ties among Arabs need not be done at the expense of other Arabs, no matter how difficult or complex the situation is.

Amman and Riyadh can, together, play an extremely positive and creative role not only in ending the plight of Iraqis but also in restoring Arab coordination, achieving comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace and renewing the mission of Arabism and Islam in the service of humanity and humanitarian ideals.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON the latest round of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on expanding self-rule in Palestine, a writer in Al Ra'i said that the Jewish settlers' mutiny and acts of violence had had their negative impact on these negotiations, which resulted in mere publication of a joint statement that meant nothing. Mahmoud Rimawi said one major success for the settlers was a more adamant Israeli government stand vis-a-vis the Jewish families living in Hebron. The writer said that the settlers have shown determination to keep the 400 Jewish residents inside the city and close to it in Kiryat Arba settlement, something which led the Israeli government to exclude the city of Hebron from the new redeployment arrangements, which means that the Israeli army will remain in the Arab city. The writer said the settlers have proved that they are the real driving force behind the Rabin government, which is apprehensive of taking any move against them because this could negatively affect the Labour Party's drive to win next year's parliamentary elections. What is clear to the Arabs now is that the Rabin government's claim that it would not pull out its forces from Hebron for security reasons is actually meant to ensure continued security for the 400 settlers inside the city of Hebron.

A WRITER in Al Dastour reflected on the defection of Hussein Kamel Hassan and his companions from Iraq and said that some people believe that Iraqi regime could be shaken as a result of the defection. Mohammad Subehi said that the Western intelligence services realise more than any one else that the regime in Iraq is strong and has solid foundation that could not be affected by the defection of a number of army officers or ministers for that matter. Many among the Iraqis in key positions and in the state's institutions in Iraq realise that their survival is closely connected with that of the regime itself and that any change in the regime would be detrimental to their own existence, said the writer, who added that these men are backed by their own clans, which have been supporting the regime all along even after the crushing defeat in the second Gulf war. The writer said the regime will survive this defection but the president's aides are certain to start giving the president advice about the need for reforms in order to improve Iraq's human rights image abroad. The writer said Jordan was determined to refrain from meddling in Iraq's internal affairs at a time when it is prepared to offer the Iraqi people humanitarian assistance and safe haven as it has done all along.



M. KAHL

By Dr. James Zogby

## Clinton pursues search for common ground

IN A TWO-WEEK period in mid-July, President Bill Clinton delivered three major policy addresses to the nation. The three central themes of a need for all Americans to seek common ground on the issues confronting the nation, and the need to be tolerant, civil and respectful of diversity in our political debates.

The first of the three addresses was, in fact, more of a conversation with the American people than a formal speech. Delivered at Georgetown University, the president's alma mater, Mr. Clinton discussed virtually every major issue confronting America today. While clearly affirming his views and his principles, the president also included the views of his opponents on these issues. His goal was to find "common ground" that would be less partisan and less extreme — on which people could come together.

Decrying the divisive nature of contemporary political discourse in America, the president noted that, "politics has become more and more fractured... as we divide into more and more sharply defined and organised groups around more and more stratified issues, as we communicate more and more with people in extreme rhetoric... it is difficult to draw the conclusion that our political system is producing the sort of discussion that will give us the kind of results we need."

The solution to this general situation, Mr. Clinton noted, is to debate but to do so within the realm of civility and mutual respect: "More conversation, less combat."

The cures the president offered for the nation's ills were neither those proposed by the conservatives who emphasise "personal responsibility" or the liberals who propose activist government remedies. The answer for Mr. Clinton was a new course that accepts the analysis of both sides. "The best example of all to me that our problems are

both personal and cultural, and economic, political and social, is the whole condition of the middle class, economically." The middle class has not seen, when adjusted for inflation, an increase in income in more than a generation.

Republicans, the president noted, propose the application of "family values" as the solution to the crisis of the middle class, but he noted that the middle class has and exhibits family values. But with "most families working harder and earning less, they have less time and less money to spare for their children... and that's not good for family values." In this context, talking about family values by itself isn't enough. The government must help by enacting economic and social policies that ease the middle class' burdens and improve their lives so that those values can be practised.

In his second major address in the series, the president applied his common ground theme to the issue of prayer in public schools — one issue threatening to divide the Congress and the public this legislative year. Affirming his belief that the constitution allows students "broad freedom of religious expression" in public schools, the president sought a moderate response to two uncompromising extremes.

While the Christian right wants to insist on prayer in the schools, extreme secularists oppose all religious expression in public places.

Mr. Clinton's response was to propose "voluntary prayer," noting that the Constitution "does not convert our schools into religious-free zones."

What was remarkable was that this suggestion was well-received by both extremes and, while it has not resolved all of the complex issues involved in the debate, the president firmly established himself in the middle of the two camps as a seeker of common ground.

The third speech in the

series was the most difficult, in that it addressed one of the most divisive issues facing American voters this year — affirmative action. "Affirmative action" refers to certain federal programmes that in an effort to correct past instances of racial and other forms of discrimination, require strong consideration of minorities for jobs, admission into schools and the like, in some cases even establishing guidelines for what portion of positions should be filled by minorities.

Ever since Republicans first attacked affirmative action programmes earlier this year and the president announced his own administration's review of all such federal programmes, the press and the public awaited the address in which Mr. Clinton would announce the findings of his review.

At one point, the issue was perceived as a no-win situation for Mr. Clinton. If he opted to reaffirm affirmative action, the conventional wisdom was that Mr. Clinton would lose white votes; while if he opted to stop such programmes he would certainly lose substantial support from African American and women voters.

Some Democrats argued coldly that African Americans would not leave their party, since they had nowhere else to turn. These Democrats therefore urged the president to end affirmative action to win back southern white male voters. The Reverend Jesse Jackson made it clear that if the president took that position, he would challenge him for the presidency as an independent candidate in 1996. If that challenge were realised, it could drain enough African American voters from Mr. Clinton to ensure his defeat to whichever Republican runs next year.

In the weeks prior to this speech, the White House brought many of us into discussions and conference calls to get out views on

the third speech in the

president is challenging his rivals to join him in a different form of discussion. It is his belief that the public is tired of angry rhetoric and has turned out this type of political feeding.

As he noted in his Georgetown speech, "our citizens, even though their confidence in the future has been clouded, and their doubts about their leaders and their institutions are profound want something better."

This is Mr. Clinton at his best — the president who wants to debate, but in the end reconcile divergent points of view. It is reminiscent of a question he answered during the 1992 campaign. When asked what his greatest weakness was, then-candidate Clinton replied that it was his tendency, going back to his childhood years in his family, to be the peace-maker, to want first of all to have everyone get along. But like any successful person in public life, he has found a way to turn that weakness into a strength.

The Civil Rights Bill of 1964 and affirmative action changed all of that. "Affirmative action has been good for America," Mr. Clinton said. And, the president added, "the job of ending discrimination in this country is not over." So while Mr. Clinton acknowledged that some reforms would be necessary to improve affirmative action, he stated that his goal was to "mend it, don't end it."

The response from the African American community and women was enthusiastic praise. From Republican it was, in the words of one television commentator, "mutual hostility." That much was expected. But what is also clear is that the president has effectively ended the debate within his own party and laid down some new ground rules for how politically divisive and emotional public issues ought to be discussed.

By taking a new path towards civil discourse the

president is the president who was moved by the Oklahoma City bombing tragedy to speak with deep intensity about the "anger in America" that fed such violence. Pointing to radical right-wing talk show hosts who spread anger at the government and hatred for minority groups over the airwaves, the president called for an end to "reckless speech and behaviour" that is "threatening the social peace" of America and "demoralising people" everywhere.

Since the Oklahoma City bombing, the president has made a determined effort to end the escalating mean-spiritedness that has characterised the nation's political debate. His July speeches were the high point of that effort.

The initial response of his opponents has not been promising — but his search for tolerance in the contest for public approval may yet move others to accept this new course.

## Sri Lanka faces war as rebels reject new peace plan

By Rohan Gunasekera  
Reuter

northern Jaffna peninsula on Friday.

Balasingham said the plan was a "mask" put forward to justify a military solution.

Mr. Goonetilleke said military offensives against the guerrillas in their Jaffna stronghold should be launched by October before the onset of the Monsoon.

Bad weather could disrupt the supply lines of the armed forces which depend on air and sea routes to maintain tens of thousands of troops in Jaffna, he said.

Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte told parliament recently the government needed two months to complete planned military operations against the Tigers, fighting for an independent homeland for Tamils in the north and east.

The government has said it would not send the peace plan to the rebels because they had rejected previous offers to discuss it and broke a three-month ceasefire on

April 19 after four rounds of peace talks.

The Tigers have since stepped up attacks against the military and civilian targets.

"It would be unrealistic for us to assume the LTTE is

"This peace package does not pave the way for a permanent political solution but does pave the way for a long-term war," rebel spokesman Anton Balasingham told reporters in the rebel-held northern Jaffna peninsula on Friday.

going to negotiate a solution to the ethnic problem which would compel them to submit to the processes of parliamentary democracy," said political commentator Hector Abhayavardhana.

"That's not the outlook of the LTTE."

But he said the LTTE did not mean a massive military campaign to subdue the Tigers would necessarily work.

Mr. Abhayavardhana said it was unlikely the Tigers would resume peace talks, despite calls by Western gov-

ernments for both sides to do so.

Analysts said the government had managed to turn international opinion in its favour and demonstrated its sincerity with its peace plan. Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamam has said Sri Lanka now found it easier to buy arms.

Mr. Abhayavardhana said he agreed with the government's contention it had to go ahead with the war to subdue the Tigers as they had rejected the peace plan.

But outside mediation might be necessary to arrange a ceasefire, ensure civilians were not hurt and to try to restore war-ravaged areas.

"The LTTE is certainly risking alienating its support base," Mr. Abhayavardhana said. "Already people who publicly support the LTTE abroad would be greatly embarrassed (by the rebels' rejection of the peace plan). But the LTTE will not be bothered by it."

## It Occurred To Me By Ali Kassay Corporate blues

WITH THE Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit almost upon us, yours truly has decided to make a humble contribution to this august international event, by preparing a guide for visiting businessmen to pilot them through some of Jordan's bureaucratic procedures. Without this service, they may all come and go having done nothing but waste our civil servants' valuable and otherwise fruitfully employed time. The first lesson is on how to establish a business:

Day the first: Arm yourself with your passport, a pen and a supply of industrial strength tranquillisers, and head for the Ministry of Industry and Trade, where you sign the registration papers in the presence of the employee responsible (should he choose to be present at his desk). After adoring your file with umpteen signatures and stamps, you are asked to go to a lawyer, any lawyer, to have your papers stamped by him and to pay half a dinner to the Bar Association. The trick here is to find a cleaner who can direct you to the nearest lawyer's office, thus saving you a considerable waste of time. When you return with your papers unread, but signed, you are told that it is almost closing time, so you had better come back tomorrow.

Day the second: Today your company is registered under your personal name, and you are ready to start the procedure for registering it under a trade name. For this you are despatched with your file (that is kept in custody overnight, just in case you decide to take it and fly away to sanity) to the Palace of Justice where, after considerable trial and tribulation, you receive the signature of a judge. This you take back to the ministry where you receive your registration papers. So you now exist as a corporate body, but this does not mean that you can practice business. For that you need a special license from the municipality.

Day the third: You spend your morning trying to lure a municipality inspector into coming to inspect your premises, all the while praying hard that none of the other tenants in the building has broken any of the Municipal regulations, or your license is withheld. Having completed the inspection, he invites you to the Municipality in a couple of hours to receive his report after he has completed his round. In a couple of hours he is not back yet, but his colleagues are and showing every sign of having called it a day.

Day the fourth: On this day of days, you receive your license. But this is not the end of the story. Now you have to go and register at the Chamber of Trade, whereupon you start the procedure of registering your trade mark, after which you will call the lunatic asylum to book yourself a padded cell with a view, and give them your measurements and choice of colour for the straight jacket.

Seriously. For a businessman time is money. He would be happy to provide the required information and fee, and, after checking that his trade name is not already taken by someone else, he should be released to his business. Civil servants can then divide his fee between the professional associations and any other worthy causes, while they embellish his file with stamps and signatures to their hearts' content, and at their leisure. This may be a good idea, you know.

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Al Thawra said  
back once again  
the escape of a  
traitor.

## Features

Occurred To Me  
By Ali Kassay  
Corporate blues

THE WORLD Bank has seen the future, and it's very, very dry. Last weekend, as the U.S. counted the rising death toll of a scorching summer, as Spanish regions clashed over what to do in eight weeks' time when their drinking water may run out after a two-year drought, and as tinder-dry Britain found it was leaking a third of its supplies, the world's most cautious economists helpfully claimed in "Earth faces H<sub>2</sub>O crisis," the bank yelled.

"The wars of the next century will be over water" — no oil or politics — says Ismail Serageldin, the bank's vice-president, echoing U.N. Secretary-General Ghalib's 1988 assertion that the next war in the Middle East would be over the Nile. Within hours, Israeli and Palestine diplomats had reached more deadlock on water in their peace talks.

Unlike Boutros Ghali, Mr. Serageldin yields facts: 80 countries, he says, now have shortages that threaten health and economies; 40 per cent of the world (more than 2 billion people) has no access to clean water or sanitation. And as industrial, agricultural and individual demands everywhere escalate the situation is deteriorating.

Mr. Serageldin's analysis is devastating but his conclusions will be hotly debated. When set alongside new statistics from the FAO (the U.N.'s Food and Agricultural Organisation) and a raft of recent independent scientific and academic hydro-political studies, the size of the global water bomb emerges.

Worldwide demand for water is doubling every 21 years, more in some regions. Supply can't remotely keep pace with demand growth as populations soar and cities explode, the bank says. Cape Verde and Barbados are running out now. The situation in the Middle East and North Africa is "precarious." Northern China, western and southern India, parts of Pakistan, South America and much of Mexico all face water scarcity.

Much of sub-Saharan Africa is in semi-permanent crisis. Fifty Chinese cities face acute shortages as the water table drops one or two metres a year. Meanwhile, many countries are accelerating the process of desertification and water quality is falling rapidly in the developing world as pollution and salinity, caused by industrial farming and over-extraction, rises.

"With water there is survival, without it there is no food nor sustenance of any sort," says Dr. Norman Myers, a fellow of Green College, Oxford, and consultant to the bank. His recent book, *Ultimate Security*, is harrowing. It says Egypt's water supply per person is expected to shrink by 30 per cent, Nigeria's by 40 per cent, Kenya's by 50 per cent in under a decade. By 2025, Mr. Serageldin adds, the amount of water available to each person in the Middle East and North Africa will have dropped by 80 per cent in a single lifetime.

Dr. Myers identifies an ecological "risk spiral": As population grows (it's expected to double worldwide in 40 years), so drier areas are being farmed. This justifies the loss of forests and other water-conserving vegetation but the result is less rainfall and a "desiccation effect" — multiple factors are compounding each other's impacts.

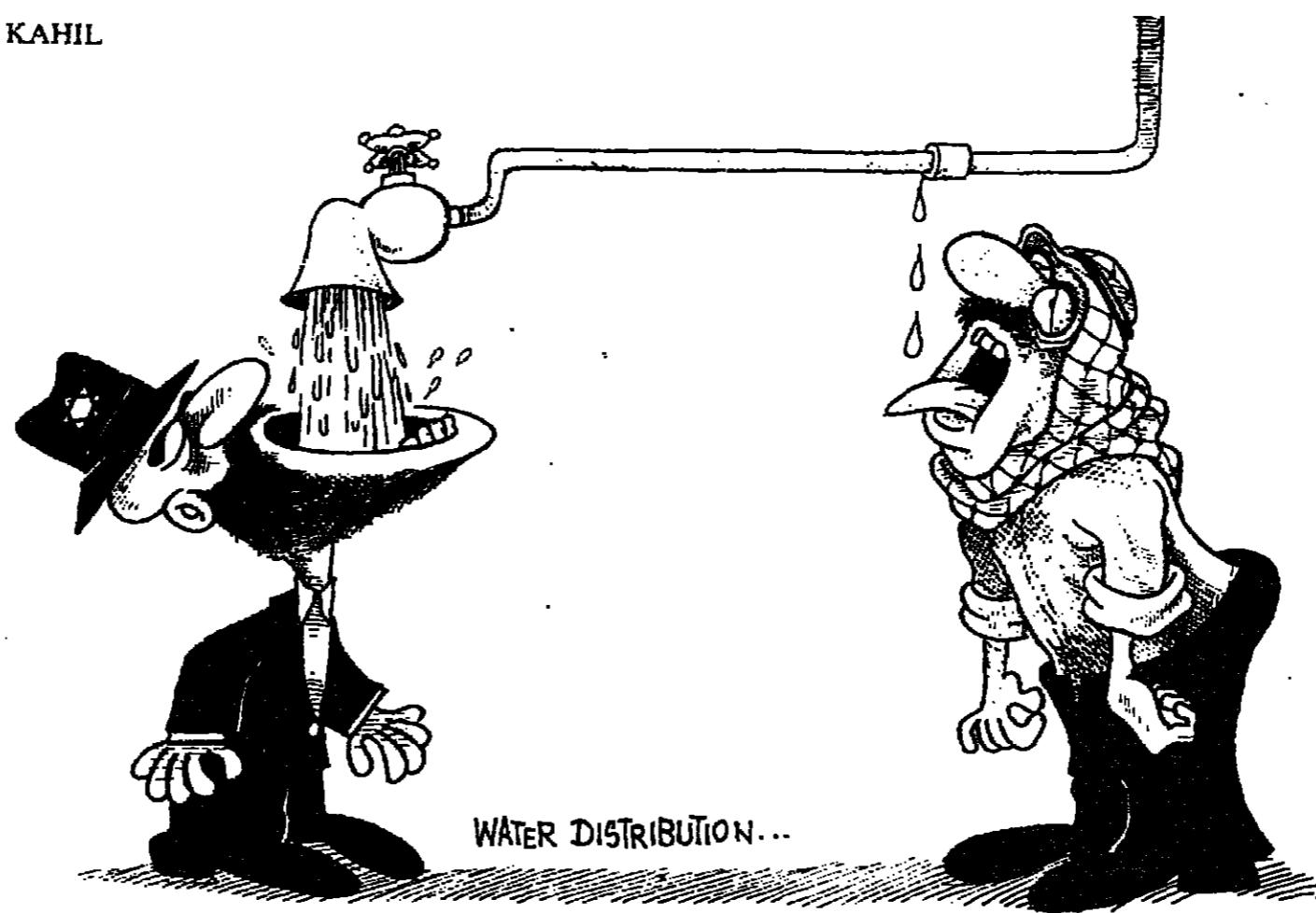
Parts of Africa could shortly experience a "drying out," and as demand soars, so supplies may decline faster than ever. Result everywhere: communities less able to feed themselves, political tension and an escalation

# The water bomb

**The wars of the next century will not be over politics or oil but water. As John Vidal reports, this warning from the World Bank comes as supply is increasingly outstripped by demand.**

**We are running out of something no one can live without.**

M. KAHIL



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Parts of Africa could shortly experience a "drying out," and as demand soars, so supplies may decline faster than ever. Result everywhere: communities less able to feed themselves, political tension and an escalation

towards conflict. "It's no longer an economic struggle, but a fight for survival," said one regional politician grappling with the Spanish water crisis.

Peter Gleick, of the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment and Security in California, agrees with Mr. Serageldin. He sees water becoming increasingly important in inter-state politics and the "probability" of violent conflict over Earth's fundamental resource. Water, he says, is fast evolving into an issue of high geopolitical strategy: "It's dynamic."

Because water is no respecter of national boundaries, the potential for insecurity is great. Botswana, Bulgaria, Cambodia, the Congo, Gambia, the Sudan, Syria and many other countries receive 75 per cent or more of their fresh water from the river flows of (often hostile) upstream neighbours. Some 40 per cent of the world's river basins whose water is competed for by more than one nation. Great rivers like the Nile, Niger, Tigris,

Mekong, Brahmaputra and Indus flow through many countries, all of whom want to extract as much water as possible. All have been the subject of recent international disputes. Tensions appear "especially likely" in parts of southern and central Asia and the Middle East, where water conflicts go back more than 5,000 years.

The problem, the FAO says, is not "climatic drought." Rainfall stays roughly the same, even if the last decade has seen eight of the hottest years on record. Rainfall varies widely from year to year but good and bad years tend to be grouped. Today's problem is self-induced. What we are seeing, the FAO says, is mostly "agricultural drought" — where water supply is insufficient to cover crop or livestock needs.

It comes in two forms. Growing populations need more food which demands more water to grow it. But less remarked (and ignored in the bank's analysis) is the fact that new, high-yielding crop varieties — subsidised and pushed vigorously by

governments, industry and world bodies as the most efficient way to feed people — demand much more water per se.

Moreover, agricultural drought is being worsened as tensions grow everywhere between the three sectors of society that traditionally compete for water — farming, industry and individuals. The FAO and the bank agree that, as wealth increases, agriculture is being denied water by emerging industrial and urban areas.

"Where's the food going to come from?" Mr. Gleick asks. "How can we possibly meet the needs of 10 billion people when we can barely meet the needs of 5 billion and are actually taking water away from agriculture?"

"Food production capacity is being lowered," Mr. Serageldin says. "Water scarcity, not shortage of land, will be the main future constraint of agricultural development in the developing world."

The solutions are hotly debated. The bank wants \$600 billion to be invested in sanitation and water schemes in the next decade,

and says it will up its lending in this area to about 25 per cent of its loans. It makes economic sense: the price of not investing in health and sanitation is huge. Ten weeks of cholera caused by contaminated water in Peru recently cost about \$1 billion — three times the amount invested in the country's water supply in the whole of the 1980s.

Because it could not afford to clean up the pollution of its water supplies, Shanghai spent \$300 million recently moving its intake 25 miles upstream. Here British water companies say it will cost \$60 billion to meet European Union (EU) water quality standards — the price of not investing in pollution prevention earlier.

"It's good to see the bank taking water seriously," says Mark Robinson of WaterAid, the British charity which claims that 80 per cent of all deaths in the developing world are now water-related and warns that cities in the developing world are becoming megacities increasingly prone to disease. "The implications for the IMF and the world

community are great. Scars like the recent Indian plague outbreak will be repeated month after month unless we get to grips with water. There are major implications for aid bodies and the International Monetary Fund.

"But money is not enough — the approach is vital. Time and again the poorest are bypassed by inappropriate water and sanitation investments. The developing world is littered with failed water projects. Soon the majority will be living in slums more than urban slums. Without safe water there can be no good health and without health you can't fight poverty. Everything starts with water."

He is supported by a Malaysian development academic who asks not to be named. "Unless the World Bank and governments really attack the roots of the crisis, start thinking in the long-term and work from the bottom-up, the problem will not be solved," he says.

He warns of another risk spiral: "The core thinking of the bank and others is to

push Western efficiency, technology and modernisation — most of which have ignored social costs. Yet the poor have ended up poorer in cities, where they need more water than before and the pollution of water is greatest.

"Without clean water and good sanitation, urban poverty, slums and diseases have flourished and countries have slipped even further into the poverty trap. But countries are still told by the World Bank and Western-trained economists to develop, at the expense of their traditional water-sparse agriculture, foreign exchange-earning crops like flowers or lettuces — which need even more water." It's all underpinned by global free trade and the GATT — pushed by the bank, he says.

"Now everyone says 'develop tourism,' which, per capita, is the most water-intensive of all industries."

The figures are startling: according to the FAO, the average 15,000 cubic metres of water needed to irrigate one hectare of high-yielding modern rice is enough for 100 nomads and 450 cattle for three years, or 100 rural families for three years, or 100 urban families for two years. The same amount can supply 100 luxury hotel guests for just 55 days.

Meanwhile, cities, Mr. Gleick says, can pay 10 times more for water as farmers; African safari hotels are paying to usurp wells that have traditionally watered whole tribes, and everywhere farming and industry is excused paying for the pollution it causes. In city after city in the developing world the poor must rely on private water vendors paying 10 times or more what those with government-provided tap water pay.

Most contentiously, the bank wants to see water valued as an economic good. Ignoring all arguments about water being a human right, or cultural or religious factors that celebrate the sacredness of water, it says private enterprise and the privatisation of water supplies are the way to provide the most services at the lowest price for the poor. It will be as hotly debated as Britain's venture into privatising water.

"Privatisation misses the mark," WaterAid says. "The poor already pay very heavily for water. In effect it's privatised already but going down the route of private facilities may not be appropriate. There are other ways. Otherwise water has a funny way of ending up only in the rich man's bucket these days."

*The Guardian Weekly*

## Kabariti visits S. Arabia

(Continued from page 1)

ambassador to Saudi Arabia in a sign of improving relations.

The Riyadh government also relaxed visa restrictions on Jordanians and allowed family members to join Jordanian expatriates living in Saudi Arabia and resumed the issuance of multi-entry visas to Jordanian drivers transiting through Saudi territory to other Gulf countries.

Jordan's embassy in Kuwait remained closed since the end of the Gulf war. Government sources here expect the mission to be reopened before the end of the year.

The Gulf countries have welcomed the Jordanian move to grant asylum to Gen. Hassan, once the second strongest man in Iraq, and analysts said it would accelerate the process of reconciliation between Amman and the Gulf capitals.

The government has said that the granting of asylum to Gen. Hassan and other Iraqis was in line with Jordan's tradition of offering refuge to any Arab since its establishment in 1920 and that Amman was not seeking to improve relations with the Gulf states at the expense of its ties with Baghdad.

The Bosnian state news

## Ethnic cleansing in Bosnia

(Continued from page 1)

in outlying villages telling them to tell the minorities in their village to meet at a certain place for registration and transport."

"They are then taken into Banja Luka for the final registration and then bussed up to the river."

"The actual operation is now being conducted with sickening efficiency," he added.

U.S. envoys meanwhile, launched a new Bosnian land-for-peace plan on Tuesday.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke was to meet Bosnian Foreign Minister Mohammad Sacirbey in the Croatian port of Split. He was stopped by fog from landing in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo, the state news agency said.

It will be the first meeting between senior U.S. and Bosnian officials since Washington devised the new peace plan after a crushing Croatian army victory over Serb rebels last week in the neighbouring Republic of Croatia.

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The Bosnian state news



In sweltering heat, a refugee mother and child wait in line to cross the Bosnian border after being expelled from their village (AFP photo)

## Israel, PLO push self-rule deal

(Continued from page 1)

two outside the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho.

Mr. Kaddoumi had told a press conference in Amman on Monday he would boycott the Tunis meeting to protest both the autonomy accords and the "hurriedness" with which Mr. Arafat convened the PLO leadership to approve them.

British and French diplomats say Croatia and the Bosnian Croats are blocking deployment for financial and political reasons.

narrow ruling coalition does not have the right to make "concessions" that could determine Israel's borders.

"I'm calling on Rabin to get the nation's approval," the Likud Party leader said. "If you consider yourself a democratic government, prove it. Go to the people."

At one point in the raucous debate, Yosef Bagad from the nationalist Molder Party sat down on the plenum's floor, interrupting a Peres speech and forcing a 10-minute recess.

"Get down from there, get

down," he shouted repeatedly after Mr. Peres pointed out that the Israeli army has 110,000 Palestinians in Hebron to protect the 400 settlers occupying the centre of the town.

Interim Speaker Dov Shilonsky ordered Mr. Ba-Gad out of the Knesset, but instead he sat on the floor.

Mr. Shilonsky and numerous deputies went down on to the floor to try to persuade Mr. Ba-Gad to leave. After the angry 10-minute scene, he finally agreed to be escorted away.

## Ekeus to visit Jordan after Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

newspaper Al Thawra dismissed as "the barking of dogs" comments by Western analysts and media.

Al Thawra said: "Today, the fake (Western) media are back once again using the escape of traitor Hussein

## Private sector set to lead Saudi economy

**ABU DHABI (AFP)** — Saudi Arabia's giant private sector is set to take charge of the economy as authorities turn to it as apparently their only option to heal the damage caused by weak oil prices, bankers have said.

While privatisations would enable local businessmen to use their enormous resources, they would fetch the government billions of dollars, badly needed to refill its coffers and to face development needs of a growing population, they said.

"The Saudis finally seem convinced the private sector can be of great help given its massive resources," a Saudi banker told AFP.

If privatisation programmes were fully carried out, the private sector would then be able to spearhead domestic development although it will likely be kept away from the oil sector, at least for the

time being," he said.

Saudi Arabia, which controls a quarter of the world's crude oil, has announced plans to privatise part of the telephone, electricity and water sector, aviation services and non-oil industries.

Officials have also spoken about the imminent sale of nearly 45 per cent of the government's 70 per cent share in the Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), one of the world's biggest petrochemical producers.

The Gulf kingdom has not revealed the extent of the planned sale in the remaining institutions or when privatisation would start.

But bankers said they expected the programme to be launched during the five-year development plan which was approved last month.

The 1995-1999 plan, the kingdom's sixth, will focus on

diversifying the economy and giving the private sector a greater role, officials said as they announced it.

In comments in the Gulf press, King Fahd said Saudi Arabia would push ahead with economic reforms to exploit the wealth of its businessmen.

He underlined that Saudi private investors would finance a \$7 billion deal to buy 61 aircrafts for the state carrier Saudia from the U.S. jetmakers Boeing and McDonnell Douglas.

Bankers said they expected government revenue from privatisation to exceed \$20 billion as the kingdom has one of the biggest services sectors in the Middle East.

But they noted the figure depended on the size of the sale.

The sale of 45 per cent of the government's stake in SABIC could fetch it more

than \$3 billion at the present market price of its shares, a recent study by the National Commercial Bank said.

SABIC, with a paid-up capital of 10 billion Saudi riyals (\$2.7 billion), is one of the most profitable joint stock companies in the region with its shares traded at between \$60 and \$80 over the past year.

It produces around 17 million tonnes of petrochemicals, fertilisers and other oil related products and plans to boost output to more than 20 million tonnes.

"Market capitalisation is expected to rise substantially with the gradual privatisation of a number of public sector entities," he said. "This will help to broaden the stock market. It will also release resources for the government to improve and expand the country's infrastructure."

firms, whose total market capitalisation is estimated at around \$15 billion, would also give a strong injection to the Riyadh bourse.

Around 78 institutions are listed in the bank-run market and new floatations in 1994 raised the total number of shares by 57 million to reach 755 million.

In a recent lecture the vice governor of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, Ahmad Al Malik, said market capitalisation had more than doubled to \$39 billion at the end of 1994 from \$18 billion at the end of 1985.

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TOKYO (AFP) — Asian countries are generally expected to maintain relatively tight monetary policies for some time amid persistent inflationary pressures, according to the Nomura Research Institute.

"With elections coming up next year, we expect the Bank of Korea to keep monetary policy tight for a while," the institute said.

Nomura said that while moves by Singapore and Malaysia allowing their currencies to appreciate against the dollar had eased inflationary pressures in both countries, the reverse was happening in Indonesia and Thailand.

"In Indonesia, the government's policy to allow the rupiah to fall together with the absence of any direct price controls has created an inflationary environment," it said. "The economy continues to grow at a blistering pace, with consumer prices accelerating to an annual rate of 10.5 per cent in June."

Nomura noted that the Indonesian government planned to devalue the rupiah by about five per cent a year to maintain the country's competitiveness. Foreign investment is meanwhile soaring, creating excess liquidity.

"In addition, an inflow of overseas funds into the stock market following the liberalisation of capital flows is putting upward pressure on the won," Nomura said, noting that authorities had subsequently intervened in cur-

rency markets to protect light industry from the negative effects of a sharply higher won.

"Thailand is under similar strong inflationary pressures," the institute added. "Because the baht is pegged to a basket of currencies in which the U.S. dollar has the largest weighting, the depreciation of the dollar has created an inflationary environment."

Nomura also indicated that the recent appreciations of the Singapore dollar and the Malaysian ringgit might have reached their limits.

In Singapore, foreign direct investment is no longer soaring and exports are growing at a slower pace because of the economic slowdown in the United States in addition to the stronger local currency.

"With the decline in the trade deficit stalled and improvements in the service balance limited, both the current account and capital balances will no longer act to push up the Singapore dollar as before," it said.

Nomura also noted that Malaysian interest rates have recently been stable, "leading us to believe they have reached a peak. Accordingly, we think the upward movement of the ringgit will be limited hereafter."

## Reforms boost Oman bourse to record level

**ABU DHABI (AFP)** — Oman's official bourse has surged to a record level as the southern Gulf oil producer presses ahead with economic reforms and domestic firms perform better, officials said Tuesday.

Turnover in the Muscat Exchange soared to a record 55.5 million Omani riyals (\$144.3 million) in the first half of 1995 from around 44.4 million riyals (\$115.4 million) in the first half of 1994, they said.

On Tuesday, the stock index closed at 155.10 points, its highest ever level since the exchange was established in 1989, its director, Mohammad Jarwani, told AFP by telephone.

"This is because the private sector is gaining momentum in the reforms and most local banks and firms

achieved better results. Some institutions reported an improvement in performance by more than 20 per cent over the past year," he pointed out.

Oman has embarked on sweeping reforms to cushion the impact of weak crude prices and diversify its oil-reliant economy.

The reforms included privatisations, freezing interest rates, allowing expatriates to trade on the stock market, improvement of investment laws and introduction of more incentives, and permitting foreigners to fully own industrial projects and other ventures that serve the domestic economy.

The government has already sold off institutions to the public and is planning to set up petrochemical industries, power and sewage

plants, and other enterprises in collaboration with the private sector.

Oman, which is not an OPEC member, produces around 800,000 barrels per day of oil and its heavy reliance on crude exports have made its economy vulnerable to persistent fluctuations in world oil prices.

Despite spending cuts over the past two years to tackle the budget deficit, the private sector continued to record high growth rates, Mr. Jarwani said.

"Performance by most private sector establishments was better by nearly 40 per cent in 1994 over 1993 despite lower government expenditure," he said. "This shows the private sector is growing steadily and has become capable of overcoming the effects of government spend-

ing cuts. I think the stage when the private sector was depending on state spending is over."

Mr. Jarwani said the surge in the Muscat stocks was also caused by stronger demand by foreign investors, an increase in companies on the exchange and dealing in bonds issued by the government to shore up the budget shortfall.

Around 41 million riyals (\$106.6 million) worth of development bonds have so far been traded in the market this year, while nearly 140 million riyals (\$364 million) of bonds were traded in 1994, he said.

"You can say this is just the start. The share index will continue to rise as we are going ahead with economic reforms and a sharp increase in domestic and foreign investment is expected in the coming years," he said.

Oman's stock market was launched in mid 1989 and it has become one of the busiest exchanges in the Middle East.

It started with around 60 banks and companies, which now have reached 80. Their market capitalisation jumped to nearly \$3 billion at the end of 1994 from \$2.35 billion at the end of 1993 and \$1.8 billion at the end of 1989.

Officials said they expected new shares to be floated in the coming months as there are plans to set up joint funds similar to the Oryx, which was launched by private investors from Oman, Britain and other European countries last year with a paid-up capital of \$52 million.

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Gold imports nearly doubled to 165.2 tonnes in the six months to June, up from 85.2 tonnes a year earlier and the highest since 1986 when gold coins were issued to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Emperor Hirohito. In June alone, gold imports surged 68.9 per cent from a year earlier to 27.1 tonnes.

Osamu Ikeda, an official at Japan's biggest gold broker, Tanaka Kikinzoku Kogyo KK, said television images of the Jan. 17 Kobe earthquake played an important role in renewing interest in the precious metal among Japanese investors.

Brokers also point to the general feeling of uncertainty with bad loans and other problems weighing on Japanese financial institutions as the country struggles to emerge from its worst re-

cession in 50 years.

"The times signal gold," says an advertisement by commodity broker Ace Koei Co. Ltd. in the Nihon Keizai newspaper, a leading business daily. "We propose crisis management by making use of gold."

Another advertisement by rival broker Fujichu Co. Ltd. makes even bigger promises: "Gold will save you," it says.

logical impact of the quake, Mr. Ikeda and other brokers said the gold boom mainly stemmed from the yen's appreciation against the dollar which has made gold less expensive in Japan.

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According to a survey by the Supply Services Committee of Parliament, there were 4,095,522 households in 1994, up 1.5 per cent from 1993. This includes 1,140,000 households with both spouses earning a combined income of JD 500 a month, up 1.8 per cent. Of these, 1,000,000, or 24.4 per cent, have an income of JD 1,000 or more.

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# Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1995 9

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policies.

**Business  
Daily  
Dear**

A review  
of economic news  
from the Arabic press

**Government  
plans to drop  
more  
families from  
food subsidy  
list in '96**

IT HAS been learnt that the incomes of both the husband and the wife will be taken into consideration from next year while determining eligibility to food subsidy. Unlike the present system of excluding a family from receiving coupons if the husband alone earns more than JD 500 a month, the exclusions will cover families where both spouses earn a combined income in excess of JD 500. Such a measure will reduce the number of supply cards to be distributed next year from about 600,000 to 500,000 and will save the treasury some JD 6 million annually.

He told the National U.S.-Arab Chambers of Commerce at meetings last week in San Francisco and Houston: "We hope at the Amman summit to do just that."

Cherie Loustaunau, deputy director of the Near Office at the Department of Commerce, was more blunt.

She said in an interview that the Casablanca and Amman conferences are "viewed as the economic part of the (Mideast) peace process, and if (the Amman summit) does not take hold... the political peace is not going to take hold."

She stressed that the U.S. government is "very committed to making the Amman summit a success."

The stakes are high for the Clinton administration and

consequently it has marshaled several agencies to woo American businesses to Amman, stressing that this multi-national conference will be "more oriented toward the private sector's contributions and benefits."

Or, as David Ruth promises, it would be "more beneficial to business leaders than was Casablanca."

The Near East Office at the Department of Commerce is well aware of the American business community's disappointment with the Moroccan conference, and is this year fashioning its plans to meet the businessmen's concerns.

Cherie Loustaunau reported in an interview that she has already furnished the Geneva-based summit organizers, the World Economic Forum, with a list of 5,000 American firms which may be interested in participating. Only 150 firms can be accommodated, however.

As part of the government's outreach programme to rally the American business community behind the Amman parley, Secretary of State Warren Christopher hosted last June a breakfast meeting with American chief executive officers and is reportedly planning another next month with Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown participating. Brown will accompany Christopher to Amman.

In order to demonstrate U.S. seriousness about the goals of the summit, the American business representatives will be considered a part of the U.S. official delegation, staying at the same hotel as the senior U.S. government officials.

The summit itself will include workshops, project briefings, and roundtables at a "business centre" at the hotel so the American businessmen can pursue opportunities and follow up on deals.

Earlier this month, the

Near East Office sponsored a telecommunications and information technology briefing for American businesses in which several Arab embassies participated.

Moreover, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), a government agency, has engaged a New York investment firm to manage its \$250 million Middle East Regional Growth Fund, which is expected to be fully subscribed by private investors by the end of October. The fund will be making direct equity investments in private business ventures in the West Bank, Gaza, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.

The U.S. game plan, according to Commerce Department officials, is to identify at this early stage potential projects that are expected to be announced in Amman in order to give the would-be American participants a head start.

Ms. Loustaunau said her office is sending a representative to the U.S. embassy in Amman this month — one is already there — to help in the match-making process, which is also being augmented by the so-called Advocacy Centre, an intra-government unit located at the Commerce Department which is charged with promoting U.S. exports.

Her office has so far received an initial list of confirmed projects and her staff is now pursuing contacts in a match-making effort with U.S. businesses which have already signed up for the

highlight, in part, large regional projects and investments, small and medium-sized enterprises to serve as catalysts for economic growth, U.S. officials explained. A thematic session will be devoted to the role of these small- and medium-sized enterprises in promoting growth and employment opportunities in the region, with emphasis on incentives

and financing mechanisms that are available to them.

The other plenary sessions of the conference will cover three additional themes:

trade and industry, infrastructure, and the economic environment.

Mr. Ruth told the U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce that long-term peace in the Middle East "depends on

providing concrete benefits

to the people of the region, benefits possible only through increased trade, entrepreneurial energy, and industrial development."

He added, "we are pursuing a broad range of economic initiatives, with emphasis on private-public partnership to complement the political aspects of the peace process and to demonstrate, if I may be blunt, that peace pays."

## U.S. business interest in Amman economic summit is high

**WASHINGTON (USA) —** Approximately 150 American businessmen are expected to attend the Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit in Amman in late October as part of an all-out U.S. government effort to demonstrate that "peace plus."

Unlike last year's huge Casablanca summit, which a State Department official describes as being remembered primarily as a "magnificent political event," the upcoming Amman summit will be a smaller affair and will focus on the private sector.

David Ruth, senior coordinator for the Business Affairs Office at the State Department, said "we need to give the taboo (in Amman) against regional business cooperation and deals" in the same manner as when Israeli and Arab businessmen hopped off for the first time in Casablanca.

He told the National U.S.-Arab Chambers of Commerce at meetings last week in San Francisco and Houston: "We hope at the Amman summit to do just that."

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The summit itself will include workshops, project briefings, and roundtables at a "business centre" at the hotel so the American businessmen can pursue opportunities and follow up on deals.

Corey D. Wright, an international trade specialist at the Department of Commerce, stressed during an interview that American businessmen are not after "ideas, but taking these one step further. They are looking for a deal."

He continued, "Anyone coming to the Summit with a good business plan for a project likely to get something accomplished — and an investor."

Although it is premature to try to identify the projects which will be considered at the match-making sessions in the Jordanian capital, it is anticipated that a few flagship projects involving government infrastructure tenders, such as the airport and tourist facilities in the Aqaba-Eilat area, are likely candidates. The summit will

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### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

**LONDON (R) —** Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

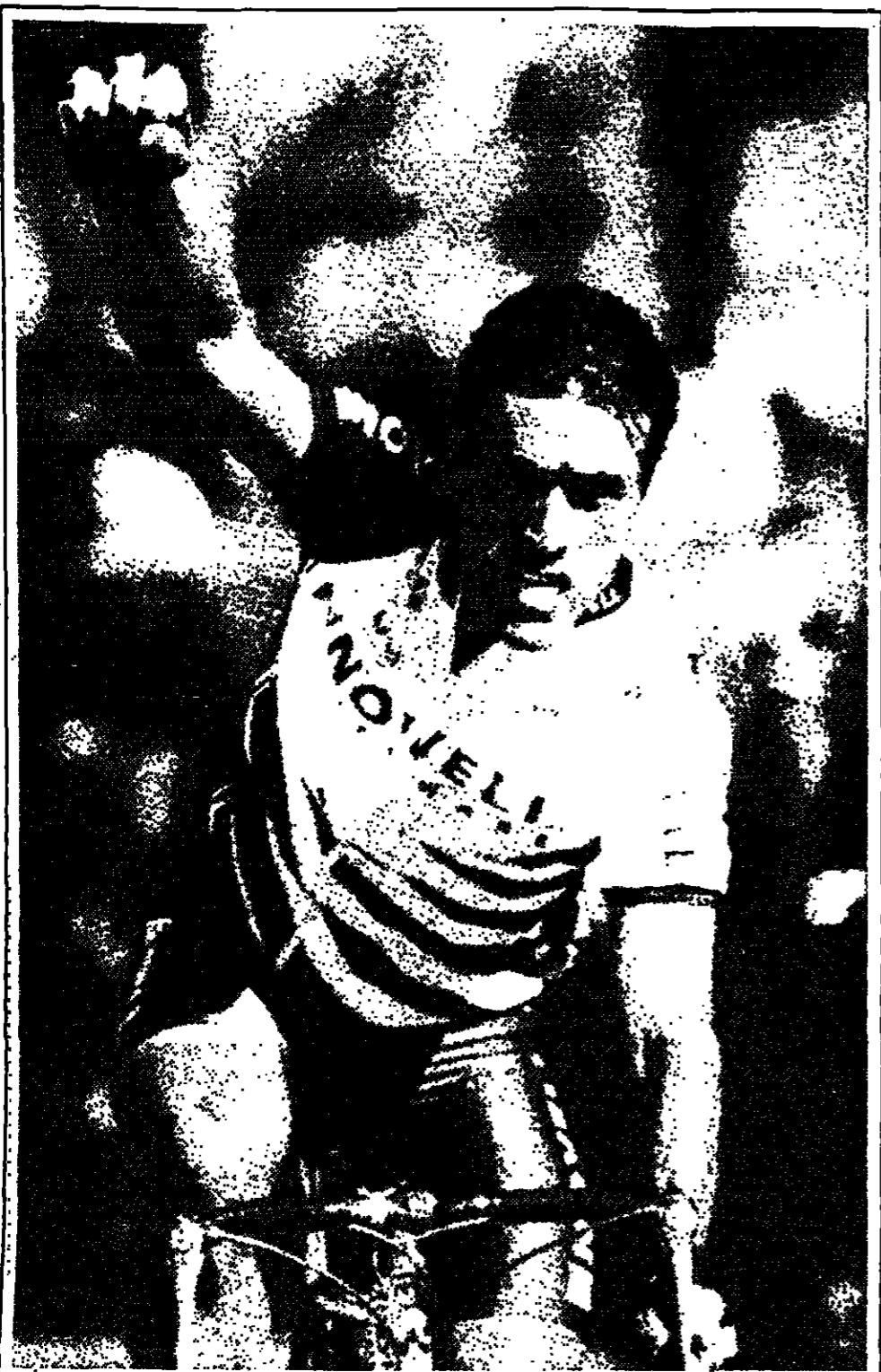
One U.S. dollar	1.3606/16	Canadian dollar	1.4484/94
	1.4484/94	Deutschmarks	1.6222/32
	1.2070/80	Dutch guilders	1.5000/00
29.72/76	1.4925/75	Swiss francs	1.6214/24
4.9825/75	1.6214/24	Belgian francs	1.6214/24
16214/24	1.6214/24	French francs	1.6214/24
95.32/42	1.6214/24	Italian lire	1.6214/24
7.2530/30	1.6214/24	Japanese yen	1.6214/24
6.6730/80	1.6214/24	Swedish crowns	1.6214/24
5.6125/75	1.6214/24	Norwegian crowns	1.6214/24
One Sterling	1.5710/20	U.S. dollar	U.S. dollars
One ounce of gold	5384.60/384.90		

**RICORN: (December 20)** You accomplish a good deal in the world this month. You avoid disagreements this evening.

**ITTARIUS: (December 21)** You loved ones more and later be in communication with you.

**ES: (February 20)** Early this morning you gain your aims quickly. But use care in financial matters to avoid a loss.

Stone of Auger, Golden Quartz



Uzbek sprinter Djamolidine Abdoujaparov crosses the finish line of the 1995 Tour de France earlier last month (AFP photo)

## Rominger leads standings

PARIS (AFP) — American Lance Armstrong moves up two places to 11 in the world International Cycling Union rankings published on Monday after his victory in the San Sebastian Classic on Saturday. Tony Rominger of Switzerland retains number one spot. Anglo-Italian Maximilian Sciandri, winner of the Leeds International Classic race earlier this month leaps 14 places to 17. 1. Tony Rominger (Swi) ..... 3242 points 2. Laurent Jalabert (Fra) ..... 2158 3. Miquel Indurain (Spa) ..... 1953 4. Alex Zulle (Fra) ..... 1543 5. Claudio Chiappucci (Ita) ..... 1463 6. Johan Museeuw (Bel) ..... 1310 7. Evgeni Berzin (Rus) ..... 1262 8. Maurizio Fondriest (Ita) ..... 1122 9. Francesco Casagrande (Ita) ..... 1060 10. Pascal Richard (Swi) ..... 960 11. Lance Armstrong (USA) ..... 956 12. Andrei Tchmil (Rus) ..... 947 13. Richard Virenque (Fra) ..... 849 14. Maximilian Sciandri (Ita) ..... 811 15. Gianluca Bertolami (Ita) ..... 803 16. Viatcheslav Ekimov (Rus) ..... 762 17. Stefano Della Santa (Ita) ..... 715 18. Chris Boardman (Gbr) ..... 689 19. Rolf Sorenson (Den) ..... 686 20. Piotr Ugrumov (Rus) ..... 682 21. Giorgio Ferlari (Ita) ..... 680 22. Djamolidine Abdoujaparov (Uzb) ..... 674 23. Francesco Frattini (Ita) ..... 669 24. Wilfried Nelissen (Bel) ..... 667 25. Bjørne Riis (Den) ..... 664 26. Mario Cipollini (Ita) ..... 662 27. Laurent Dufaux (Swi) ..... 654 28. Davide Rebellin (Ita) ..... 642 29. Alberto Elli (Ita) ..... 640 30. Gianni Bugno (Ita) ..... 632

## Van Almsick back on golden trail

VIENNA (R) — Franziska Van Almsick, winner of six gold medals at the last European Swimming Championships, could trump that with a record seven this time. The 17-year-old German, who claimed her first world record and world title in the 200 metres freestyle in Rome last September, has entered four individual freestyle events and three relays at the championships, which begin with diving and synchronised swimming on Thursday.

Van Almsick won the 50, 100 and 200 freestyle and shared in three German relay triumphs at the last European Championships in Sheffield, England, two years ago to match the tally achieved in 1985 by West German Michael Gross.

She was denied a seventh gold in the 100 metres butterfly in which she had to settle for the silver.

This time she has dropped the butterfly but added the 400 freestyle to her repertoire, though she faces a

tough challenge from 15-year-old compatriot Julia Jung who beat her in the event at the German national championships in June.

Van Almsick should have few problems in the 100 and 200 freestyle but will have her work cut in the 50 against Russia's Natalia Mesheryakova, silver medalist at the world championships where the German was fourth.

Van Almsick won a clutch of medals at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics when she was just 14 and her major goal is the 1996 Games in Atlanta which could mark the end of her swimming career.

"I want to end my career on a high point," she said here this week. "The end of my career depends on how I do in Atlanta."

Germany headed the medals table at the last European Championships with 15 titles, three more than Russia. Daniela Hunger (200 individual medley) and Jana Henke (800 freestyle) join Van Almsick in defending their crowns in Vienna.

The auction is noteworthy in two respects. Since North had made a takeout double originally, the free raise to two spades showed the equivalent of a better-than-minimum opening bid. As a result, South did not pounce foot around, but made a full-blooded raise to game.

Sitting East was the late Helen Sobel, the greatest woman player

None of those bridge maxims we learned when we started playing the game are etched in stone. They are designed to cover generalities, and in the majority of cases they are useful guidelines. If there is one that is almost inviolable, it's "never trump your partner's ace." H.G. Webster's cartoon perfectly captured the riotous reactions that followed when this unpardonable sin was committed. Yet ...

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Sitting East was the late Helen Sobel, the greatest woman player

to go to Europe for meetings so close to the championships instead of training at home, where they would keep a close watch."

Kosgei, competing without many of their big names, won only two gold medals at the Gothenburg World Championships, which ended on Sunday.

"Poor tactics and bad administration caused the debacle," said Kosgei who was sacked amid controversy in May. "The coaches accompanying the team are wholly to blame for putting unnecessary pressure on these fine athletes."

"I am surprised the coaches allowed some

ironically, the 800 metres

## World champions set for lucrative Zurich pay day

ZURICH (R) — World championship gold medalists won a luxury German car for their performances in Gothenburg but the business of making serious money from track and field takes place here on Wednesday.

Some 25 gold medalists from the Gothenburg championships that ended on Sunday will gather in the Swiss financial centre for the Weltklasse meeting, the most lucrative event in the sport with a \$5 million budget.

While winning a world title is largely prestige, Zurich provides athletes with the big money which will help pay the mortgage in the next year while they devote all their time to preparing for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

The meeting is the richest of the golden four series

which gives out a total of 20 one-kilo gold bars to athletes who win specific events in Oslo, Zurich, Brussels and Berlin. The prize is worth around \$250,000.

In addition to appearance money, there are also cash prizes of up to \$7,000 for winners at each meeting. In Zurich, a world record is worth \$50,000 plus one kilo of gold.

But the meeting is not all about money. Winning in Zurich has a great deal of sporting significance. There are some fascinating showdowns on the programme which have psychological importance in the year before the Olympics.

France's world 400 metres champion Marie-José Pérec takes on new world holder Kim Batten of the United

States in the women's 400 metres hurdles. Pérec did not run the hurdles event at the world championships because of injury.

Mozambique's Maria Mutola, disqualified from the women's 800 metres in Sweden for running out of lane, takes on Cuban world champion Ana Fidelia Quirot over two laps.

Britain's high hurdler Colin Jackson, who shared the 20 gold bars with American long jumper Mike Powell last year, may be fit to face world champion Allen Johnson of the United States, the discipline's new star. Jackson did not defend his 110 metres hurdles title in Sweden due to injury.

Britain's Olympic 100 metres champion Linford

Christie is also hoping for a shot at the new world champion Donovan Bailey of Canada if he can recover from injury in time.

The 35-year-old Christie, whose hopes of defending his world title were dashed by a hamstring problem, has travelled to Zurich for treatment with a sports doctor. He wants to compete again in Europe this summer before retiring at the end of the season.

"I'm going to see the doctor in Zurich and we will assess things... I have done some light training and will not decide until the last moment... things are beginning to look up," he said.

The meeting effectively crams the line-ups from nine days of world championship

finals into a few hours, a perfect package for television which pays for the prizes. The meeting will be broadcast in 23 countries.

Algeria's world 1,500 metres champion Nouredine Morceli may have a chance of setting a world best for the men's mile if the weather conditions are good.

The same applies to Kenya's 3,000 metres steeplechaser Moses Kiptanui, who bids to improve on his own world record of eight minutes 2.08 seconds which he ran here in 1992.

Michael Johnson, who completed an historic 200 and 400 metres double in Gothenburg, runs in the one-lap race. Whenever the powerful American steps onto a track, a world record could go whatever the financial reward.

## Bowed China sets sights on Atlanta

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese athletics chiefs and athletes pick up the pieces after the nation flopped at the World Championships in Gothenburg.

The all-conquering Chinese, who grabbed eight medals and four titles, second only to the USA, at Stuttgart in 1993 could manage just one medal in Sweden when Huang Zhihong picked up silver in the women's shot put.

It was China's worst result since it started contesting the world championships in Helsinki in 1983.

Before the Gothenburg championships, the official line pushed by Chinese athletics chiefs was that they were no more than a training outing for rising stars ahead of the more important Atlanta Olympics in 1996.

The post-championship si-

lence was perhaps more telling. The walkers, too, were ill-prepared after their World Cup victory in April.

Days before the end of the championships national trainer Kan Fuling set alarm bells sounding.

"China is ill-adapted to top level competition because our athletes lack the technical and psychological training they must have to compete internationally," Kan was reported as saying.

Our athletes lacked experience and committed too many technical errors."

Han also warned coaches must shoulder some of the blame. "The preparation of some of the athletes, the javelin throwers for example, was not good enough. They were ready too early in the season.

## Who said what at the World Championships

GOTHENBURG (AFP) — Selection of quotations from participants at World Athletics Championships which finished here on Sunday.

\* "I was born a winner. I'm a champion. I was born to run. A lot of people don't want me to win, but they will be disappointed." Former world champion Linford Christie just before finishing sixth, hampered by injury, in the 100m.

\* "I'm here to talk about athletics." Christie after it was revealed he had become a grandfather.

\* "I can't become more famous than I already am. I have nothing to win and everything to lose." Christie before the 100m final again.

\* "There's no magical formula." Britain's Jonathan Edwards after breaking the triple jump world record twice in his first two jumps before taking gold.

\* "I think training for the heptathlon has been good for my long jump." Germany's 1993 champion Heike Drechsler before failing to reach the last eight in the final.

\* "My big goal is Atlanta. If I win there, maybe I will learn to drive." Ethiopian Haile Gebrsellassie after winning the 100m.

\* "I clearly beat them. I know it in my heart. The person who wins now can't enjoy that. I can't let it ruin my 100m gold medal."

American Gwen Torrence, the 100m winner, after being stripped of the 200m title for stepping out of her lane.

\* "She cheated. She ran about two metres shorter than everybody else and she ran in somebody else's lane." Merlene Ottey on Gwen Torrence's disqualification which handed the Jamaican the gold medal.

\* "I'm very very disturbed that Merlene would make such a comment. Not as a competitor but as a mother. I've always tried to instil in my little boy that you don't have to cheat to get anything." Torrence on Ottey's accusation.

\* "Parents have to practise what they preach, that's what I've always believed. I'm afraid to call my little boy because I don't want to tell him that someone said his mother cheated to win." Double-chasing Michael Johnson after winning the 400m title.

\* "My secret? I don't know—maybe ladies." Mexican marathon man Dionicio Ceron trying to explain the reason behind his success.

\* "I clearly beat them. I know it in my heart. The person who wins now can't enjoy that. I can't let it ruin my 100m gold medal."

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\* "She cheated. She ran about two metres shorter than everybody else and she ran in somebody else's lane." Jamaican Merlene Ottey after being awarded the gold. I don't know if she did it on purpose."

\* "I think I'll need a lot of wisdom now because there will be a lot of temptations and snares that success will bring, that might take me off the track of what I really want to do—which is to glorify God with my life, and to be a good husband to a good father." Jonathan Edwards, Britain's world triple champion and world record holder.

\* "I've had a good time at Gothenburg." Michael Johnson, after taking an unprecedented 200/400m double

winning by 0.11. \* "Twenty years ago, 35-year-old sprinters were unheard of. Carl and Linford would have been back home watching the athletics on television." United States Track and Field (USAF) spokesman Pete Cava on the demise of Carl Lewis and Linford Christie.

\* "I will go on for ever." Sergey Bubka before his campaign for a fifth consecutive pole vault crown.

\* "I will continue to cycle to training." Wilson Kipketer, the Kenyan-born Dane, after winning the 800m title and a car to boot.

\* "I didn't celebrate. I didn't have any dreams and I didn't have any beers." Double-chasing Michael Johnson after winning the 400m title.

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# Sports

Wheaton,  
Pioline ousted  
from  
RCA tourney

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Two of the six seeds in action on the first day of the \$1.04 million RCA Championships, 11th-seeded American David Wheaton and 16th-seeded Cedric Pioline of France, were first-round casualties on Monday.

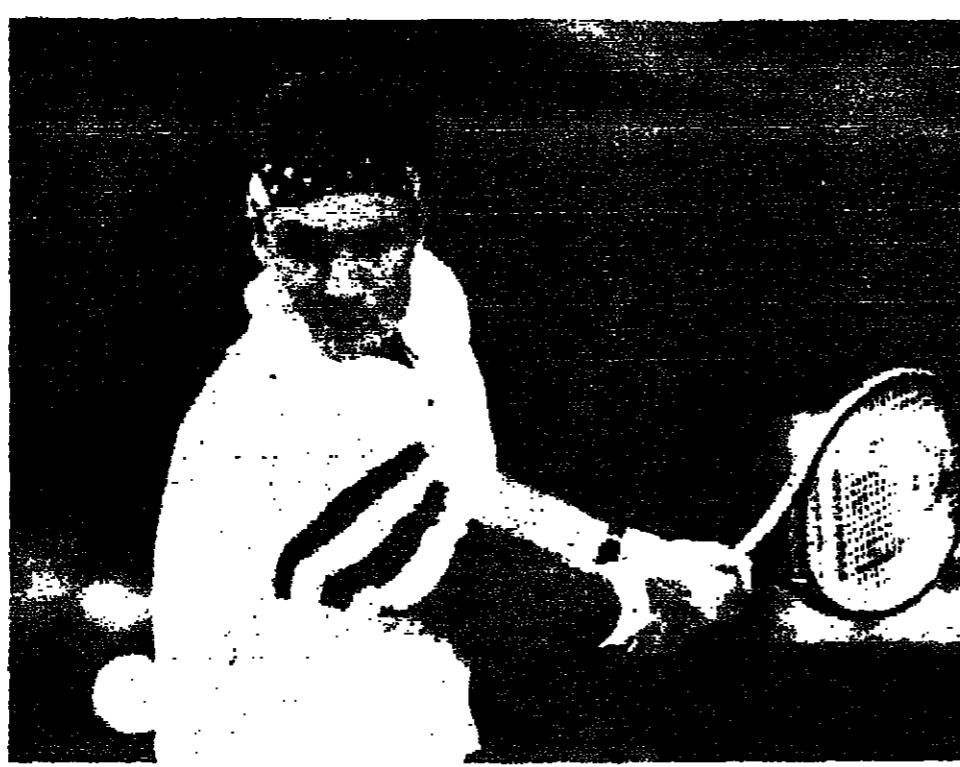
The 55th-ranked Wheaton was a victim of too many unforced errors in his 7-6 (8-6) 6-4 loss to 36th-ranked Renzo Furlan of Italy. Furlan, who was 50th-ranked last week, moved up in the rankings because of a quarter-final showing at the ATP championship.

"I am playing very well and very happy for what I did last week," Furlan said. "I think I am in good shape."

The 44th-ranked Pioline fell to 150th-ranked wildcard entry Tim Henman of Britain 6-7 (5-7) 6-3 7-6 (7-2).

Four seeds moved into the second round Monday — 10th-seeded Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden, 12th-seeded Bernd Karcher of Germany, 14th-seeded Guy Forget of France and 15th-seeded Brett Steven of New Zealand.

The top eight seeds, led by second-ranked Pete Sampras, seventh-ranked Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, ninth-ranked Wayne Ferreira of



David Wheaton

winning backhand crosscourt return.

"He played pretty consistently and I made a ton of unforced errors," Wheaton admitted, calling attention to his 33 errors. "That was the story of the match."

Pioline, a finalist at the 1993 U.S. Open and a quarter-finalist at this year's Wimbledon, couldn't handle the heat wave that is blanketing the midwest.

"It was very hot and I felt like I couldn't move like normal," Pioline said. "I was slower and my opponent

played good."

Hennan successfully broke Pioline's serve on all six opportunities — the sixth and eighth games of the first set, the fifth, seventh, and ninth games of the second set, and the second game of the third set.

Pioline managed to break Hennan's serve on four of nine opportunities.

"It was a bonus to get a wildcard here and I was very happy to take the opportunity," Hennan said. "Once I got my chances, I was able to take them."

The only service break in the match came in the last game, Furlan capitalised on his third match point with a

## Washington advances at Volvo International

NEW HAVEN (AP) — Malvai Washington used powerful serves and pinpoint baseline play to beat Andrei Chesnokov 6-3, 6-1 in an opening-round match Monday in the Volvo International.

Washington, seeded 12th, got his second straight victory over Chesnokov, who was one of the highest ranked non-seeded players in the tournament. Washington prevailed on clay earlier this year in Germany.

The hardcourt of the Volvo has been kind to Washington in the past. He reached the finals in 1992 and the quarter-finals last year. Chesnokov's solid baseline game kept the right-handed Washington at bay for most of the match, not allowing him to rush the net. Instead, he attacked from the service line.

"I've been working on my serve. I've always felt that when I'm serving good, things are going to go well for me," Washington said.

He fired six aces, the last two in the final game and one of the shortest of the match. The last two aces flew by the tiring Chesnokov at 115 and 117 mph.

"When you can get some free points on your serve, it makes things a lot easier," said the 26-year-old Floridian.

Chesnokov won his only game of the second set by prevailing in a seven-deuce game that included long volleys and a deft display of ball placement from Washington that even had the Russian applauding.

Washington's second round match will be against either Nicolas Pereira of Venezuela or Adrian Voinea of Romania.

In the other match involving a seed, No. 10 Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands beat Andrei Olhovskiy 7-6 (7-2), 6-3. Haarhuis will meet either Jim Grabb or Byron Black in the second round.

Haarhuis broke serve in the second game of the second set, then held serve in the third game after facing two break points.

Olhovskiy finally got a service break in the seventh game only to give it back in the eighth, allowing Haarhuis to serve for the match.

In another notable match, 1990 Volvo champion Derrick Rostagno, who has played only one tournament since undergoing 18 months of rehabilitation for an elbow injury, beat Michael Joyce 6-4, 6-4.

"I put my hand back in the game. The rest is history," McCall.

"I'm just as motivated as I always was," said Rostagno.



Malvai Washington

who last played in the Lipton Challenge in March. "I know that I've won a lot of matches on that court, and if I just play my game I can get through a few matches."

The top eight seeds in the field, which features six of the top 11 players in the world, including Andre Agassi and defending champion Boris Becker, received first-round byes.

Before the opening round began, tournament officials announced that Pilot Pen Corp. of America will replace Volvo cars of North America as title sponsor.

Volvo decided to end its 23-year partnership with the tournament, the longest run-

ning in tennis in North America, as part of a strategy to focus more on regional events.

Pilot Pen, a penmaker based in nearby Trumbull, signed a five-year contract, beginning in 1996. Neither company nor tournament officials would disclose the value of the deal.

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## Egyptian workers describe Libyan clampdown on them

AL SALOUM, Egypt (R) — Egyptian workers crossing out of Libya say they expect authorities to expel thousands more foreigners before a clampdown on illegal immigrants there ends.

Security officials at Al-Saloum crossing point between Egypt and Libya, 700 kilometres west of Cairo, said on Monday that 3,000-3,500 Egyptian workers had been thrown out since Aug. 3. The flow continued this week, but at a slower rate, they said.

Officials and the expelled workers said the clampdown was concentrated on Libya's central region, which includes the cities of Sirte, Misratah and Zlitan.

An Arab diplomat based in Libya told Reuters he believed the Libyan decision was related to protests he said took place there in June. Libyan authorities held Muslim militants responsible, and Egyptians and Sudanese were reportedly involved.

Ismail Khalaf, an engineer at a steel factory in Misratah, said the rumour among workers was that armed Libyan, Egyptian and Sudanese militants had been seized.

Hundreds of Palestinians were also expelled during the same period. They often re-

main stranded for days between the Egyptian-Libyan borders until they get the approval of both Israel and Egypt to be sent to the self-rule area of Gaza.

Inshirah, a Palestinian woman with six children, said she was stranded for three days. Palestinians are loaded in buses and taken directly to Gaza, nearly 1,000 kilometres away.

Egyptian workers said Libyan police raided their houses in early August and ordered them to leave within 48 hours.

Gamal Abdulla, 32, said he was taken from his house with others to the police station, and then to Al-Kharouba square in Misratah where workers were loaded in buses to return to Egypt.

Mr. Abdulla added that many Egyptian workers had also returned home of their own accord when news of the clampdown spread.

Egyptian officials led by Manpower Minister Ahmad Al-Amawi are in Libya to discuss the expelled workers' entitlements and to set a new framework for Egyptian workers in Libya.

There are no official figures for Egyptian workers in Libya, but Egyptian officials

put the number at nearly a million.

Following the opening of the border in 1992, Egyptians flocked to Libya to try their luck, many without contracts.

But border controls were reimposed last year to catch criminals and stop a flood of cheap Libyan goods into Egypt.

"The atmosphere is terrible and there is no work anymore," said Salah Soker, a carpenter expelled from Zlitan. "The arrests continue and more people are expected to return," he added.

Saeed Ahmad, another worker, said Libyans have also put up dozens of checkpoints on the road between the Egyptian border and Benghazi, the first major city on the road.

"We now feel that we are not wanted there. I wish conditions (in Egypt) improve so that we don't have to go through all this trouble," said Ibrahim Mohammad.

Brigadier Ibrahim Anwar, head of Al-Saloum crossing, said at least 5,000 Egyptians and Libyans move daily between the two countries. "This figure is very low. A year ago, the numbers were much higher, almost 15,000."

"Sir, I pleaded not guilty," McVeigh, 28, told the judge quickly when asked for his plea.

"You honour, I am innocent," Mr. Nicholas, 40, told the magistrate at a separate hearing.

Lesser charges have been filed against a third friend, Michael Fortier, who struck a deal to testify for the prosecution.

But after a long investigation of links to right-wing militias, authorities concluded they did not have enough evidence to charge others in the bombing.

One federal official has said privately that the attack was probably not the result of a vast right-wing conspiracy as some had believed but the

A total of 104 heads of state, four vice-presidents, and 41 prime ministers have confirmed their participation, the U.N. press office said.

But two months before the session is to take place — Oct. 22 to 24 — the unprecedented meeting is turning out to be protocol headache for U.N. officials.

There are breakfasts, lunches and dinners as well as diplomatic receptions on the programme. There is also a concert by the New York Philharmonic.

To cap the summit, the leaders are supposed to adopt a "50th Anniversary Declaration" to mark the birth of the world body on Oct. 24, 1945.

Each of the leaders is to speak for five minutes during the six morning and evening sessions scheduled over the three days.

Mr. Clinton, as head of the host nation, will open the first morning session on Oct. 22 and Mr. Yeltsin and Cuban President Fidel Castro are also to speak that day.

French President Jacques Chirac as well as his South African counterpart Nelson Mandela, China's Jiang Zemin, and British Prime Minister John Major have also confirmed their participation, according to an initial U.N. list.

Among those who will not be making the scene are the "bad boys" of the United Nations Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

The three countries are under international sanctions.

The anniversary celebration will take place during the regular General Assembly session which officially kicks off Sept. 19.

Some diplomats here are concerned the anniversary celebration might overshadow the regular General Assembly debate session which is to begin Sept. 25 in which the heads of state normally participate.

Many of the leaders expected in New York for the October session might not be able to make the September session.

A series of events were held in June in San Francisco to mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the U.N. Charter.



**NEW ARRIVALS:** Two Palestinians policemen embrace as they enter the Gaza Strip as via the Rafah crossing from Egypt on Tuesday to serve with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). About 170 Palestinian policemen trained in Algeria arrived Tuesday to join the PNA force (AFP photo)

## Oklahoma blast suspects plead innocent in court

OKLAHOMA CITY (AFP)

The two main suspects charged in the April bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma that killed 168 people and stunned the country pleaded innocent Tuesday.

Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols were charged Friday on 11 federal anti-terrorism counts for the April 19 bombing — the deadliest terrorist act in the United States — and could face the death penalty.

"Sir, I pleaded not guilty," McVeigh, 28, told the judge quickly when asked for his plea.

"You honour, I am innocent," Mr. Nicholas, 40, told the magistrate at a separate hearing.

Lesser charges have been filed against a third friend, Michael Fortier, who struck a deal to testify for the prosecution.

But after a long investigation of links to right-wing militias, authorities concluded they did not have enough evidence to charge others in the bombing.

One federal official has said privately that the attack was probably not the result of a vast right-wing conspiracy as some had believed but the

work of as many as five disgruntled individuals.

"The grand jury found probably cause to believe that there are others involved. We will continue the investigation," Prosecutor Joseph Hartzler said Friday.

Attorney General Janet Reno said last week in Washington that the government dropped charges of possession of destructive materials against James Nichols, the brother of Terry Nichols who was taken into custody in Michigan early in the investigation.

"We will pursue every lead based on the evidence. But we have charged everyone involved that we have evidence of at this point," Ms. Reno said.

The truck bombing at the Alfred Murrah federal building stunned the country when it emerged that the worst such attack in U.S. history was a home-grown conspiracy. It also fuelled speculation of a vast conspiracy against the government.

The indictment does not specify a motive, but officials have said Mr. McVeigh was angry over the 1993 cult disaster at Waco, Texas. The bombing took place on Aug. 15, 1994.

Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas killed Colonel Ridvan Ozden, head of the paramilitary gendarmerie forces in Mardin province, on Monday night, the officials said.

The attack, in which two non-commissioned officers and a pro-government village guard also died, appeared to be an act of defiance to counter government charges the PKK is close to defeat.

"He is the highest-ranking member of the security forces killed in the southeast in the last year," said an official at the regional governor's office in the city of Diyarbakir.

He said security forces killed 13 guerrillas in Mardin in ensuing fighting which continued into Tuesday morning.

Security measures had been stepped up in the region in case of a dramatic attack by the rebels to mark the anniversary.

Police identity checks in Diyarbakir and controls of vehicles entering or leaving southeastern towns had been

increased in recent days. Soldiers' leave in the region had been postponed.

More than 17,500 people have died in the rebels' insurgency which was launched with the killing of two soldiers in separate attacks on Aug. 15, 1994.

Turkish political and military leaders refuse to negotiate with the rebels, whom they describe as "terrorists."

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has repeatedly said this year the security forces were on the brink of ending the rebellion. The guerrillas have continued attacks despite a big Turkish incursion meant to cripple key PKK bases in northern Iraq in the spring.

The PKK now has thousands of guerrillas in southeastern Turkey and northern Iraq, thousands of members and sympathisers among Kurds in Europe and close links to a parliament-in-exile set up by Turkish Kurds in the Hague in April.

"The Kurdish revolution is now...the most serious international revolutionary movement," the Marxist PKK's leader, Abdullah Ocalan, said in an interview published in a pro-Kurdish daily on Tuesday to mark the anniversary.

Security measures had been stepped up in the region in case of a dramatic attack by the rebels to mark the anniversary.

Police identity checks in Diyarbakir and controls of vehicles entering or leaving southeastern towns had been

also asked about an urgent invitation from Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz for United Nations inspectors to return to Iraq to receive information about Iraq's weapons programmes, which Mr. Aziz claimed had been withheld by Gen. Hussein Kamel.

"We believe that efforts by Iraq to hurry the inspection process are not acceptable," Mr. Johnson said. "We believe now is the time for sober consideration of the situation, not for the declaration of artificial deadlines for action."

He said the U.S. was in contact with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission, which has been charged with conducting inspections inside Iraq since the Gulf war. The United States is prepared to cooperate with Dr. Ekeus to ensure he is able to fully carry out his mission. Mr. Johnson said.

The deputy spokesman was

## Israel probes killing of PoWs

TEL AVIV (AP)

— Israel's foreign ministry asked the army Tuesday to investigate a report that an Israeli general's assertion that he and another officer executed 49 Egyptian prisoners of war (PoWs) during the 1956 Middle East war.

The foreign ministry's move came after Egypt demanded that Israel investigate the matter.

The killings were disclosed when Arye Birn, a retired Israeli general, told Israeli media earlier this month that he ordered the prisoners shot to death during the October 1956 campaign in Egypt's Sinai desert.

Mr. Birn, then a company commander, said he had received orders to move south in the Sinai but lacked troops to guard the prisoners, and feared that if he released them they would inform the Egyptian army of his movements.

Mr. Birn said he and a lieutenant carried out the executions.

A foreign ministry official said the army had been asked to look into the matter and inform the ministry of the results of its investigation.

Asked for his reaction to the foreign ministry request, Mr. Birn said "The army must decide what to do," his daughter Hanna told the Associated Press on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said: "I prefer at this stage not to comment. I regret things that have been said so far, and I won't add anything to this."

Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan said he did not expect Israeli-Egyptian ties to be negatively affected by the affair, Israel's army radio said.

Egyptian newspapers quoted Foreign Minister Amr Musa as saying formal contacts were underway to try to establish whether the killings took place and who was responsible.

## COLUMN 10

### Malaysia rejects 24-hour TV

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP)

— Malaysia Tuesday rejected a request to broadcast round-the-clock television for fear Malaysians would stay up all night and neglect their work and family. "Our surveys show that countries with round-the-clock transmission are beset with family problems and their people are less productive," Information Minister Mohammad Rahmat was quoted saying by Bernama news agency. He said in order for the country to attain industrialised nation status, Malaysians should be kept "fresh and productive."

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JAKARTA (R) — An Indonesian minister denied Tuesday allegations that the government had encouraged free sex by promoting condom use, saying that condoms were needed by those with AIDS.

"It is not true that we have campaigned for the use of condoms to encourage people to go to brothels or to promote free sex. It is a sin," coordinating Minister of Welfare Azwar Anas told reporters.

"What we are trying to do is to tell people affected by AIDS that they must protect their family from the disease. They must use condoms, because it is a very dangerous disease," Indonesia's Council of Ulamas (MUI), an influential group of Muslim scholars, has called for condoms to be sold only to married couples and not distributed freely to curb the spread of AIDS.

Mr. Whitehurst said he was upset at the "strong pressure" being put on him by FBI members that he wrote two memos to the inspector general about the matter.

Mr. Whitehurst, who holds a doctorate in chemistry from Duke University, was called as a defence witness by lawyers for Fares Khalafalla and Mohammad Saleh.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman and nine other men are charged with plotting to bomb the United Trade Centre and the World Trade Centre.

"There was a great deal of pressure put upon me to bias my interpretation," Mr. Whitehurst said in federal court in Manhattan. He said his superiors told him "not to provide alternative theories that could be used by the government at the trial of four men accused in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Centre."

Mr. Whitehurst said he was upset that false testimony would be offered that he went to the bathroom, urinated into a beaker and went to extremes to demonstrate that false information was being offered.

"I was criticised openly and told I could hurt the prosecution case... that the prosecution was going to circumvent my testimony by having another expert testify," said Mr. Whitehurst.

Garbage-eating bears invade Canadian town

KENORA, Ontario (R) — Dozens of garbage-eating bears are roaming the streets of this northwestern Ontario town in what officials call the busiest year ever for bear sightings, police said on Monday.

"I think this is the worst year on record. We're lucky we haven't had an injury. It's bound to happen with the number of bear calls we're getting," police officer Greg Smith said.

This town of 10,000 people, 135 miles (215 kilometres) east of Winipeg, has reported 261 bear sightings this summer and an average of 28 a day last week,

he said. "The worst is yet to come. September and October is when bears are looking for food," added Mr. Smith, who noted that the berry crop disappears in autumn. Kenora police have killed three black bears this summer, trapped another three and tranquilised 18 others in a futile bid to drive out the animals, he said.

## U.S.: Iraqi defection could be significant

WASHINGTON (USIA)

A son-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Liyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

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